



“It is extremely difficult to cover or stop players who play give – go – receive hockey at high speeds, who change direction and who go into open spaces”

ALL ZONES – GIVE – GO – RECEIVE HOCKEY

The give – go – receive style of hockey with speed is to my mind what great hockey is all about.

The player with the puck, if he has time and space, accelerates at high speed forcing the opposition to challenge him. If he doesn't have time and space to accelerate with the puck he finds an open teammate to pass to right away. Our other players are all potential pass receivers so just as our puck carrier has received the puck every one else tries to create a passing lane from the puck carrier while maintaining their responsible position on the ice. The pass may go forward towards their net or back to one of our defencemen. Hopefully the puck goes forward.

Usually the puck carrier makes the easiest short pass and then busts into an open space to get a return pass but sometimes a longer pass is the better play, but not usually. Everyone should be seeing the whole ice and understand the plays before they develop.

The player receiving the first pass must get the pass on the tape of his stick as we say in order for him not to lose speed or the ability to return the pass or make another pass to a team mate quickly before the opposition checks him. The pass receiver must cushion the pass on his stick so he gains instant control so he is able to quickly make the return pass or another pass to a team mate. Passes into the skates of the pass receiver or that make him turn the wrong way to receive it disrupt the flow of the play significantly and make it a lot easier for the opposition to intercept the puck or bodycheck the pass receiver.

The passer needs to help create a passing lane as well as the pass receiver by passing quickly or skating to a position where there is a passing lane. If there is no passing lane the pass becomes that much more difficult and risks hitting the opposition's skates or stick. So, the passer should see the passing lane and the pass receiver before he passes, being careful not to telegraph the pass by staring at the pass receiver well in advance of the pass or turning his body towards the pass receiver too early. The opposition will read this and go to the pass receiver early or even intercept the pass.

The advantage in making a crisp fast pass rather than a slow tumbling pass is obvious. Slow passes take longer to get to the pass receiver and allow the opposition time to intercept the pass or check the pass receiver as the pass reaches him.

One golden rule in making good passes is to take an instant to ensure solid puck possession, that the puck is where you want it on your stick and that your body is positioned and balanced to deliver a good accurate pass.

If you are executing a drop pass in their end when you are being followed closely by a team mate don't try to pass the puck onto his stick, you are too close to make that work well. Just leave the



puck skating by it through your legs or at the side and it will be an easier pick up for the pass receiver as he will read what you are doing.