



INDIVIDUAL OFFENSIVE TACTICS



INDIVIDUAL OFFENSIVE TACTICS

When a team has possession of the puck, that team is on offense.

The objective of offensive play is:

To advance the puck into the offensive zone and to create good scoring opportunities. This is accomplished by the players on offense using tactics to create time and space.

Individual offensive tactics can create a scoring chance for the individual or a teammate, or to advance the puck to a better offensive position.

In this section, you will be presented ideas to increase your knowledge of individual tactics to allow players to improve their execution of skills and team play.

Attacking One-on-One

When attacking one-on-one, the puck carrier must have skating and puck handling skills to keep possession of the puck and to challenge the defender to be able to effectively attack the net.

Skating Fakes

Change of Pace

The puck carrier, by varying the speed of attack through a change of pace (e.g., slowdown, accelerate), may be able to deceive or force a defender to adjust speed and position quickly.

Outside-In

A player skating on wide outside forces the defender to adjust wide. When just outside the checking range, the puck carrier makes a quick lateral move to the inside and accelerates past the defender to a scoring position.

Inside-Out

The puck carrier skates in a direction which forces the defender to adjust to an inside position, moves the puck quickly, laterally to the outside and accelerates around the defender.

Body Fakes

Body fakes can include movement of the head, upper body, or lower body in a deceptive movement designed to force the defender to change position or move in the wrong direction. When this occurs, the puck carrier accelerates quickly in the opposite direction before the defender has time to recover. These fakes are normally made just outside the checking range of the opponent. This allows the puck to be moved laterally in front of the defender.



Figure 1: Body Fake

Shooting and Passing Fakes

Fake Shot

The attacker, by using a shooting action, can force the defender to momentarily move into a shot blocking position. This allows the puck carrier to quickly skate past the defender and attack the net.

Look Away

The puck carrier, by looking at a teammate and indicating a passing, can force the defender to adjust position in the direction of the potential pass receiver. This results in the creation of space for the puck carrier to attack the net.

Driving to the Net

An offensive player, with an outside position, uses strong crossover strides and leans with an extended inside leg and arm to protect the puck from the defender in order to cut to the front of the net. The attacker attempts to drive to the far post and maintains their body position. (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Driving to the Net – Keeping body between the opponent and the puck

Walkouts

When in possession of the puck in the offensive zone, behind the goal line or along the side boards, a player should take advantage of any gap or lane to attack the net. The puck carrier fakes a pass to force the defender to adjust position and then quickly moves through the open lane to a potential scoring position. (Figure 3).

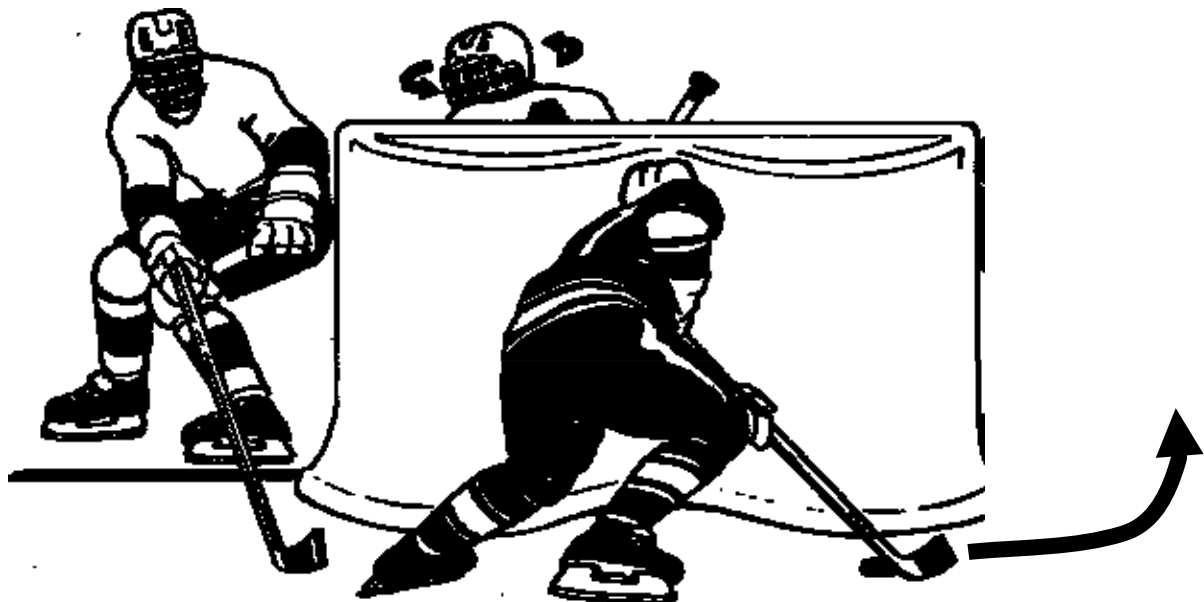


Figure 3: Walkout

Shaking a Defender One-on-One

The puck carrier must also be able to maintain possession of the puck when underchecking pressure by a defender. Use of the body, skates, and stick, as well as evasive skating movements, are required to shake a defender one-on-one.

Turn-Up

This is an offensive move used by puck carriers who is skating in the direction of their own net while under pressure from a defender. The player first executes a fake by lowering the shoulder and angling the skates to turn in one direction. The puck carrier then rapidly makes a tight turn (preferably toward the near boards) with the puck in the opposite direction and skates quickly as the turn is completed. The puck carrier is now facing up ice and in a position to pass to a teammate or are make a direct attack (Figure 4).

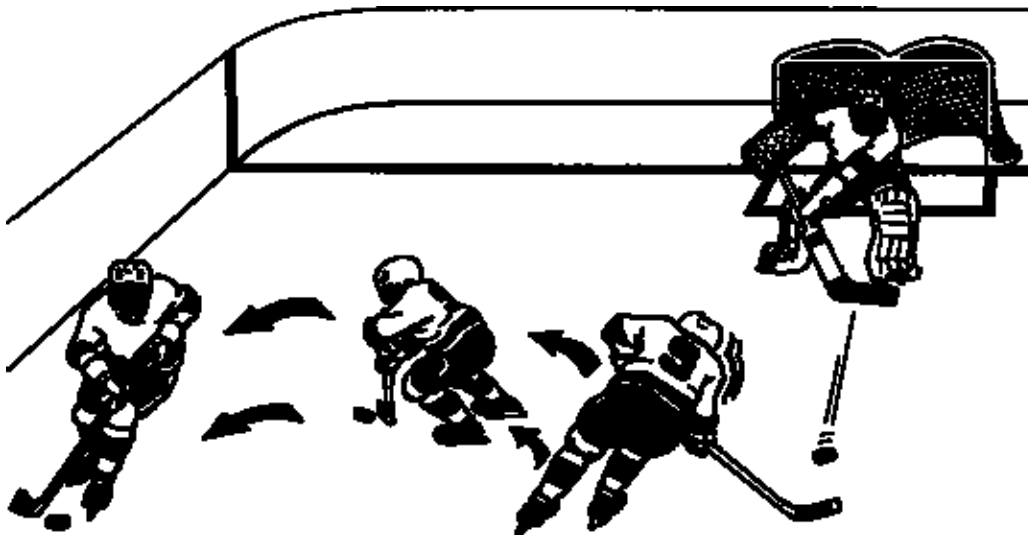


Figure 4: Turn-Up

Delay

When entering the offensive zone the puck carrier makes a tight turn toward the boards away from the defender and is completed with the puck carrier facing towards the middle of the ice. This creates space between the puck carrier and defender, and increases the amount of time the puck carrier has to use in the attack. (Figure 5).

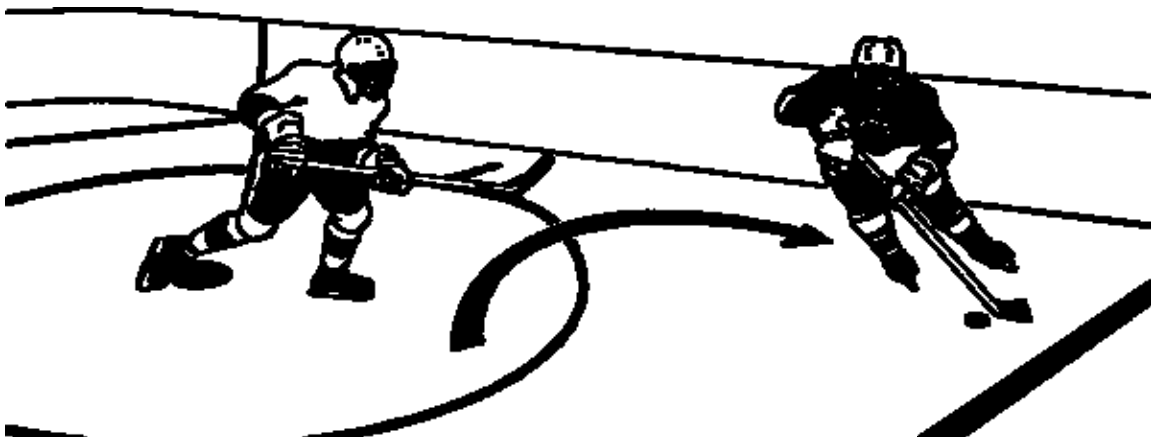
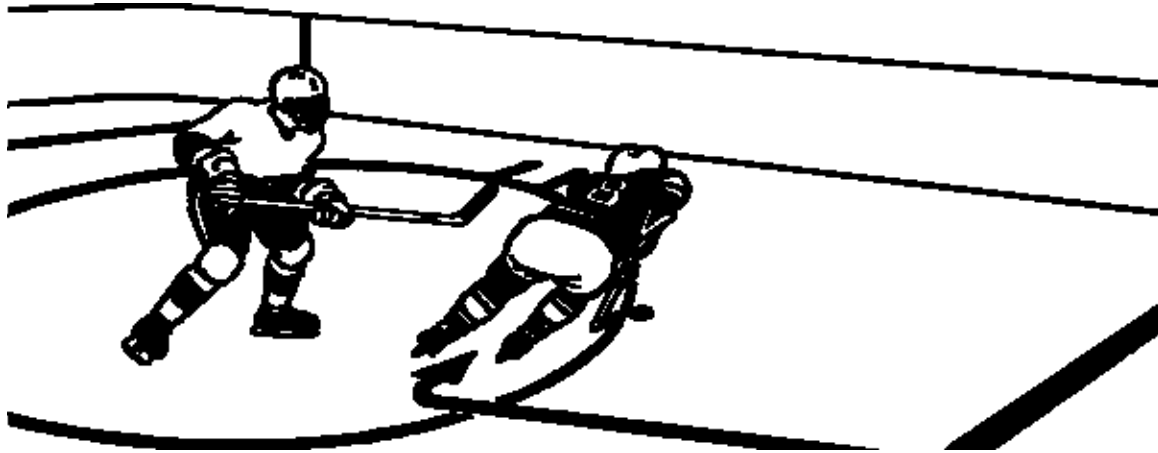
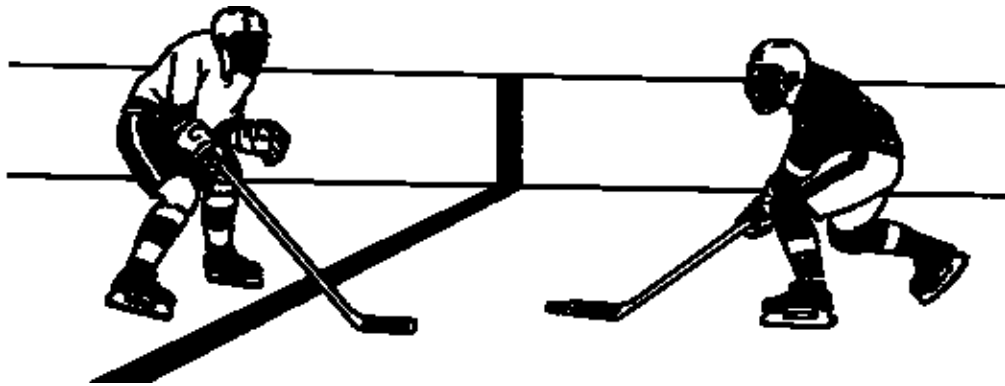


Figure 5: Delaying

Quick Stop

As another option, the attacker may execute a quick stop facing in the direction of the middle of the ice. If the defender is not able to stop as quickly, the puck carrier will have space and time in order to look for a passing option or attack the net. Against a skilled defender, it will be necessary for the puck carrier to move laterally outside with the puck immediately after the quick stop in order to gain the necessary space.

Screening (Without the Puck)

Screening (also referred to as picking or blocking) is the tactic of the offensive non-puck carrier skating to a position between the puck carrier and a defender. The screen gives the puck carrier more time and space because it forces the defender to go around the screen to chase the puck carrier. Players executing a screen should also be prepared for a possible pass, depending on the reaction of the defenders.

It must be noted the screening player must establish position quickly and avoid physically interfering or making any contact with the defender, as this could result in an interference penalty.

Moving Screen - Screening a Forechecker

In order to delay a forechecker from pressuring a teammate who is carrying the puck or is retrieving a loose puck, a player cuts across the intended direction of the forechecker thereby providing additional time for the teammate. (Figure 6).



Figure 6: Moving Screen

Screening in the Neutral Zone (Stationary Screening)

A player, by establishing a position along the attacking blue line, can create a screen to open a space for the puck carrier to enter the offensive zone. (Figure 7).

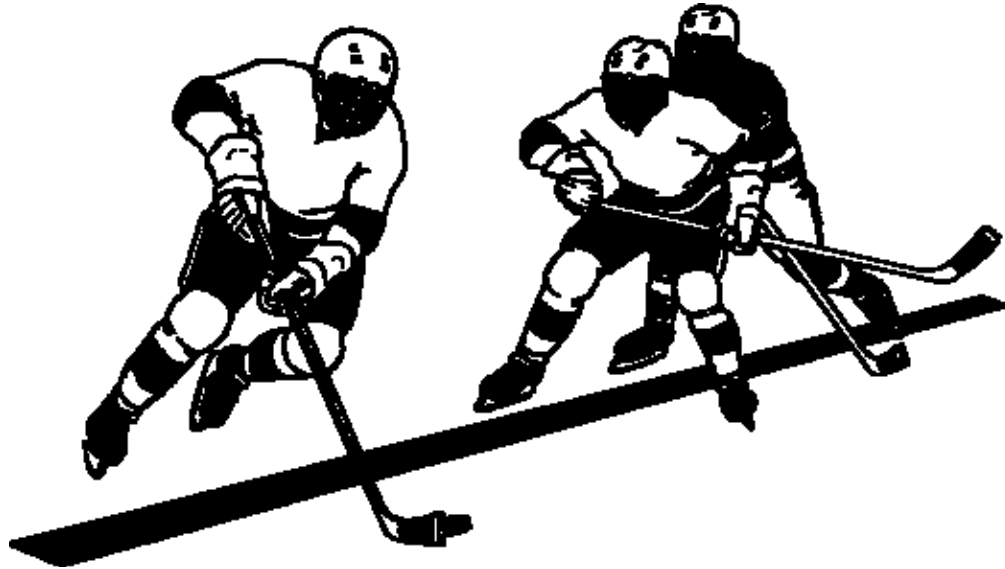


Figure 7: Stationary Screen

Screening in the Offensive Zone

Screens can also be used in the offensive zone to prevent defenders from taking good checking angles against the puck carrier or an intended pass receiver. This tactic is more commonly used in power play situations (Figure 8).



Figure 8: Stationary Screen (Offensive Zone)