

OFFENSIVE PRINCIPLES

FIRST PRINCIPLE OF OFFENSE – **POSSESSION:**

- Undisputed control of the puck (not the location of the puck) determines who is on offense
- We have it on our stick
- If they have it or nobody has it, we are on *DEFENSE!*

SECOND PRINCIPLE OF OFFENSE – **SUPPORT**

- It is the (offensive) action *AWAY* from the puck that determines the evolving play
- “Support” = Puck carrier always has *flowing options* in depth and width of the ice
- *Flowing Options* are achieved by combining triangulation with movement
- Support is the responsibility of any offensive player not in possession of the puck
- Teammates create passing lanes by moving to empty space
- Puck carriers advance the play by moving the puck to empty space, not occupied space
- Passing lanes between puck carrier and occupied space are usually covered by defensive players
- Using these lanes usually results in turnovers

THIRD PRINCIPLE OF OFFENSE – **TRANSITION**

- It is the immediate and explosive jump from defense to offense (“non-possession” to “possession”) that allows attackers to transform utilize open spaces into scoring opportunities
- Rapid series of decisive give-and-go passes
- Quick feet
- Short passes
- Engage the full depth of available players

FOURTH PRINCIPLE OF OFFENSE: **PRESSURE**

- Creating an environment that diminishes the opponent’s ability to play effectively as a unit
- Create Offensive Pressure by outnumbering the opponent & using speed