

*As a coach, you have a major influence on your athletes. Not only will you affect the development of their skills and long-term enjoyment of the sport, you will also play a role in their development as individuals. It is important that you have effective resources to help you.*

*The Coaching Association of Canada, in partnership with the national sport organizations, compiled the following coaching tips.*

## Developing Offensive Creativity



### **You can make your team's offense more effective by improving your players' creativity.**

The object of offensive play is to create high percentage scoring opportunities. By developing creativity, through the use of tactics which create time and space, players will enjoy more scoring opportunities.

### **Teach your players the six keys to scoring goals:**

- Anticipate and react by being aware of the position of the goaltender, net, puck, opponent and teammates.
- Concentrate on shooting or creating an opportunity when in traffic.
- Use effective positioning to time moves into openings at the same instant as the puck.
- Be determined; don't be prevented from driving to the net; be ready for rebounds and loose pucks, and don't turn away after taking a shot on net.
- Be unpredictable; develop a large variety of dekes and shots.
- Release the puck quickly after receiving passes or making dekes.

Players must develop good one-on-one individual tactics like change of pace, inside-out and outside-in skating fakes, and fakes using the head, upper body and lower body. Tactics like faking shots, looking away, driving to the net, walkouts and delaying also help create offensive advantages.

Players must also develop the ability to read and react to changing situations. The puck carrier must read open ice, defensive pressure and passing options, and execute the best tactic. Other offensive players must decide whether to back up the puck carrier, create a passing option, set a screen or help create a numerical advantage.

