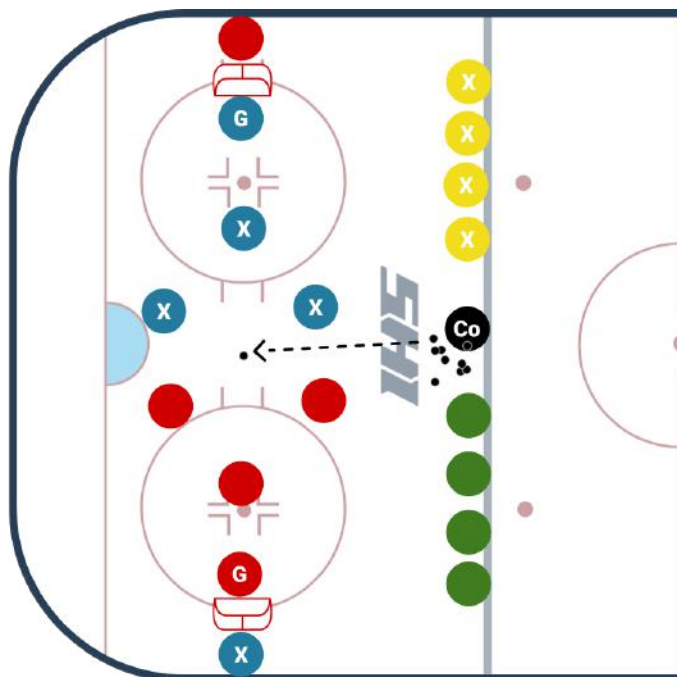


# Small Area Game (SAG) - Gretzky



## Description

Purpose of the drill is have offensive players control possession of the puck with protection techniques, skating to open ice, being creative and communication with their teammates. When on defense players are to focus on angling, body and stick positioning, anticipating the play, and communication with their teammates.

Key factors of the drill:

- Defender - zone/stick positioning, angle for puck separation, communication, transition to offense, awareness
- Offense - puck protection, moving to open ice, passing, creativity, switching/rotation of position during play

This is a game of 4v4 with a twist - one player from each team acts as "Gretzky" and must remain behind the opposition net at all times ("Gretzky's Office"). The player designated as "Gretzky" is to be used as an outlet for players to generate offense, be creative, and utilize open ice with their passes. Players can switch positions/rotate into "Gretzky's Office" during play, but one player is required to be there at all times during the drill. Defensive players cannot enter "Gretzky's Office" during play and must remain above the goal line.

Play is initiated on the whistle with the coach dumping a puck into the playing area. Play continues until a team scores with a new team substituting in. The drill can be modified with number of players or to accommodate one goalie as needed.