

PHILADELPHIA PHANTOMS



Philadelphia Phantoms
Hockey

John Stevens – Head Coach

Face-offs



Early Structure

- 5 players and a goalie at each end.
- There are several blue and red lines on the ice.
- The game is played with a stick and a puck.
- There are 2 nets at each end.
- Play begins with a face-off.

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- A face-off is one of the few set plays in hockey.
- Often, your team's readiness on face-offs is a reflection of your team's readiness to play.
- Puck possession is like field position in football. It allows you to dictate the play and apply pressure to your opponent.



Face-off Considerations

- **Where does each player line-up?**
- **How does the location of the face-off affect the position of players?**
- **Who is going to take the face-off?**
- **What is the job of each player on each face-off?**
- **The art and technique of taking a face-off.**



Fundamentals of Taking a Face-off

- Watch the referee's hand and not the ice.
- Widen your stance for balance.
- Widen grip on stick.
- Consider turning bottom hand over.
- Make note of your opponents stick position.
- Attack the stick.
- Attack the small part of the circle.
- Rotate into the circle.
- Box out your opponent.
- This is a 1 on 1 battle. Effort counts the most.

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“When I was in Detroit,” Primeau says, “Scotty Bowman advised us not to try and win the face-offs cleanly because the percentage was against you. He preached that everyone on the ice had an important job to win a scramble for the puck. Even the goaltender, when we were in our own zone.”



Team Fundamentals of a Face-off

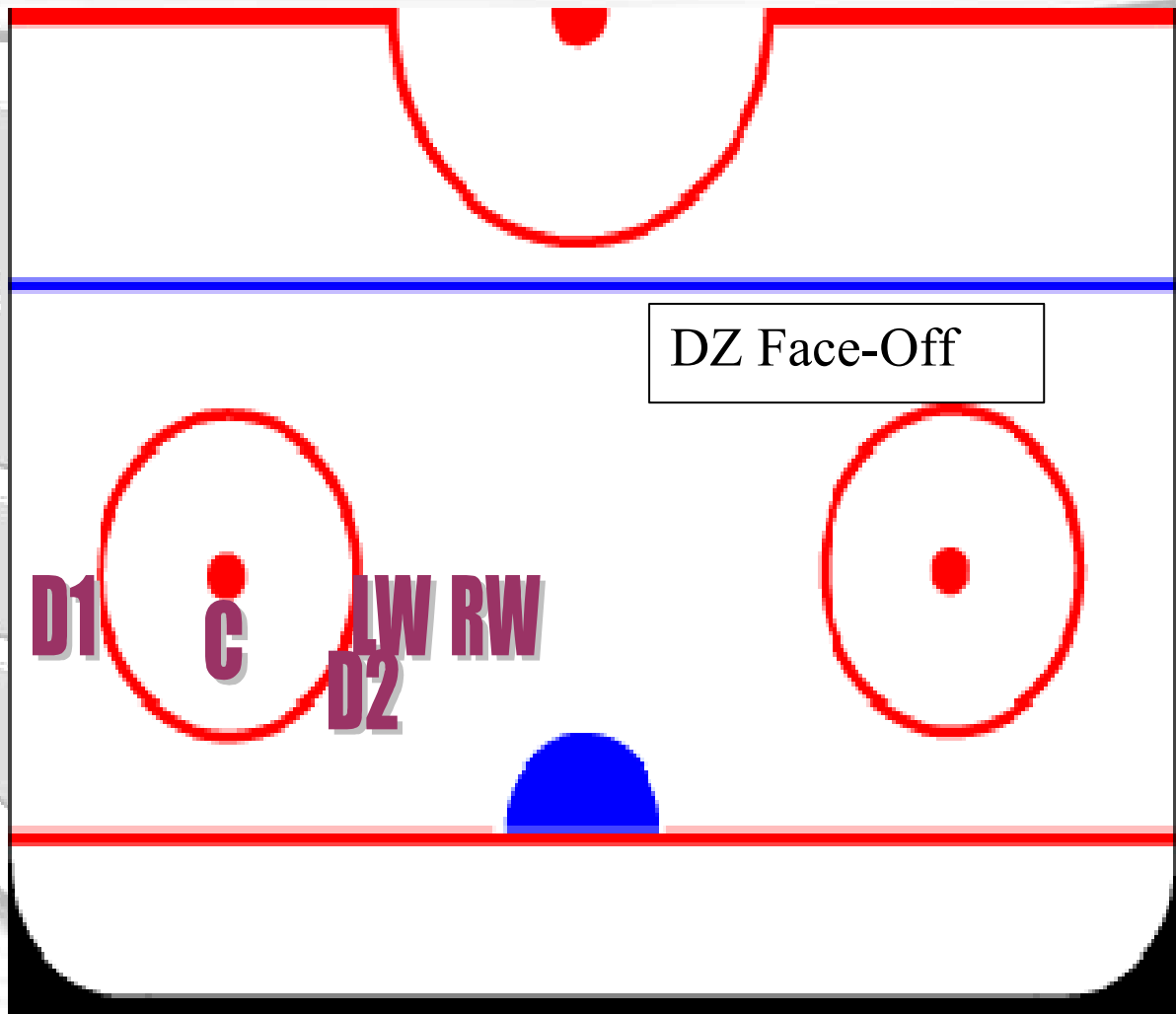
- Everyone, including the goalie must be ready.
- All 5 players can help win a face-off.
- Wingers must help on loose pucks.
- Everyone must hold up on a win.
- Everyone must fight thru on a loss.
- All 5 skaters should be on the same page.
- Do you want to start with the puck or do you want to start without the puck?
- Put the center in charge of making sure everyone is ready.



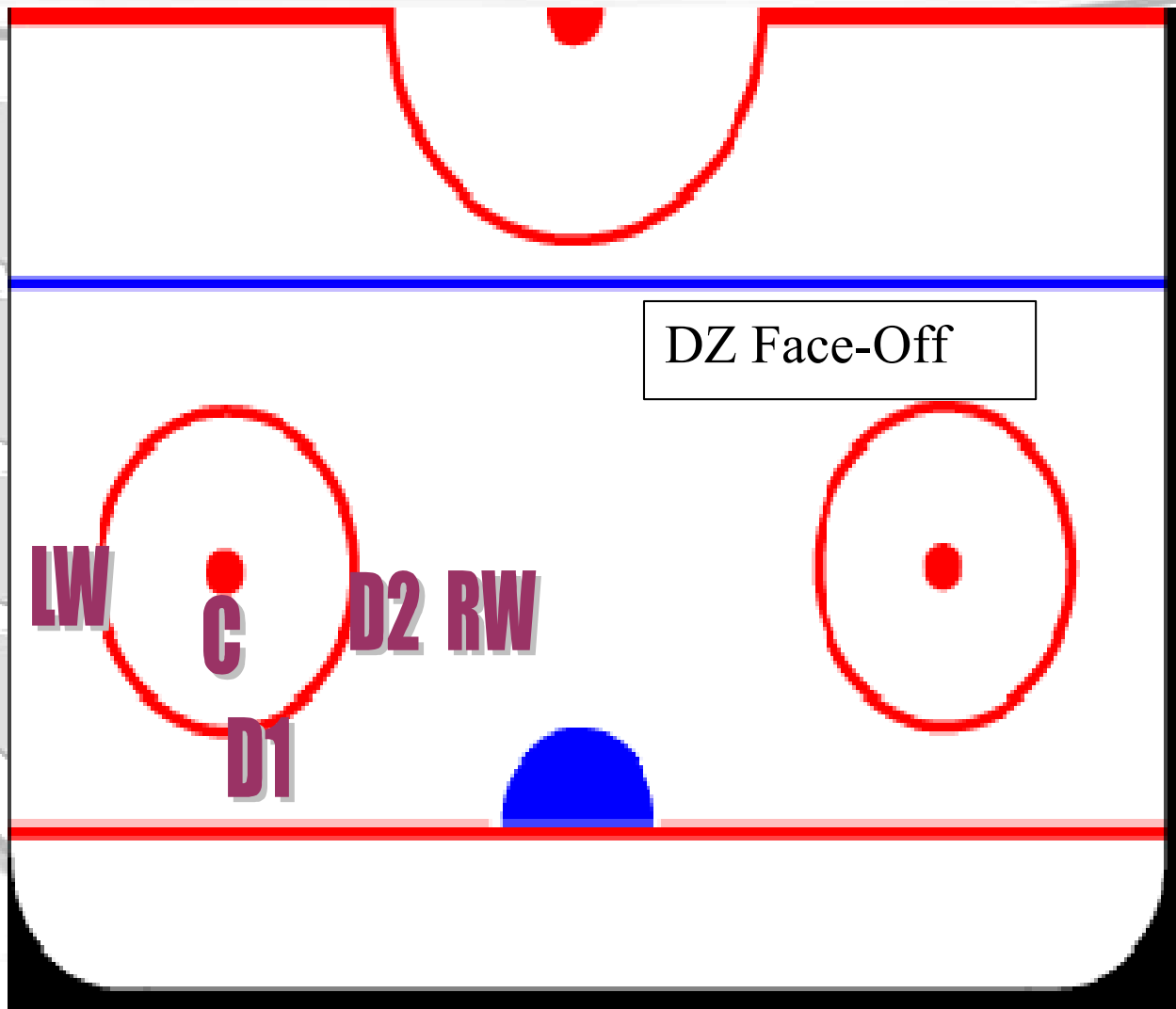
Face-Off Management

- What zone is the face-off in?
- Do we have a plan?
- DZ- Who is getting the puck?
- OZ- Who is the shooter?
- How much time is left in the game or period?
- What is the other team trying to do?

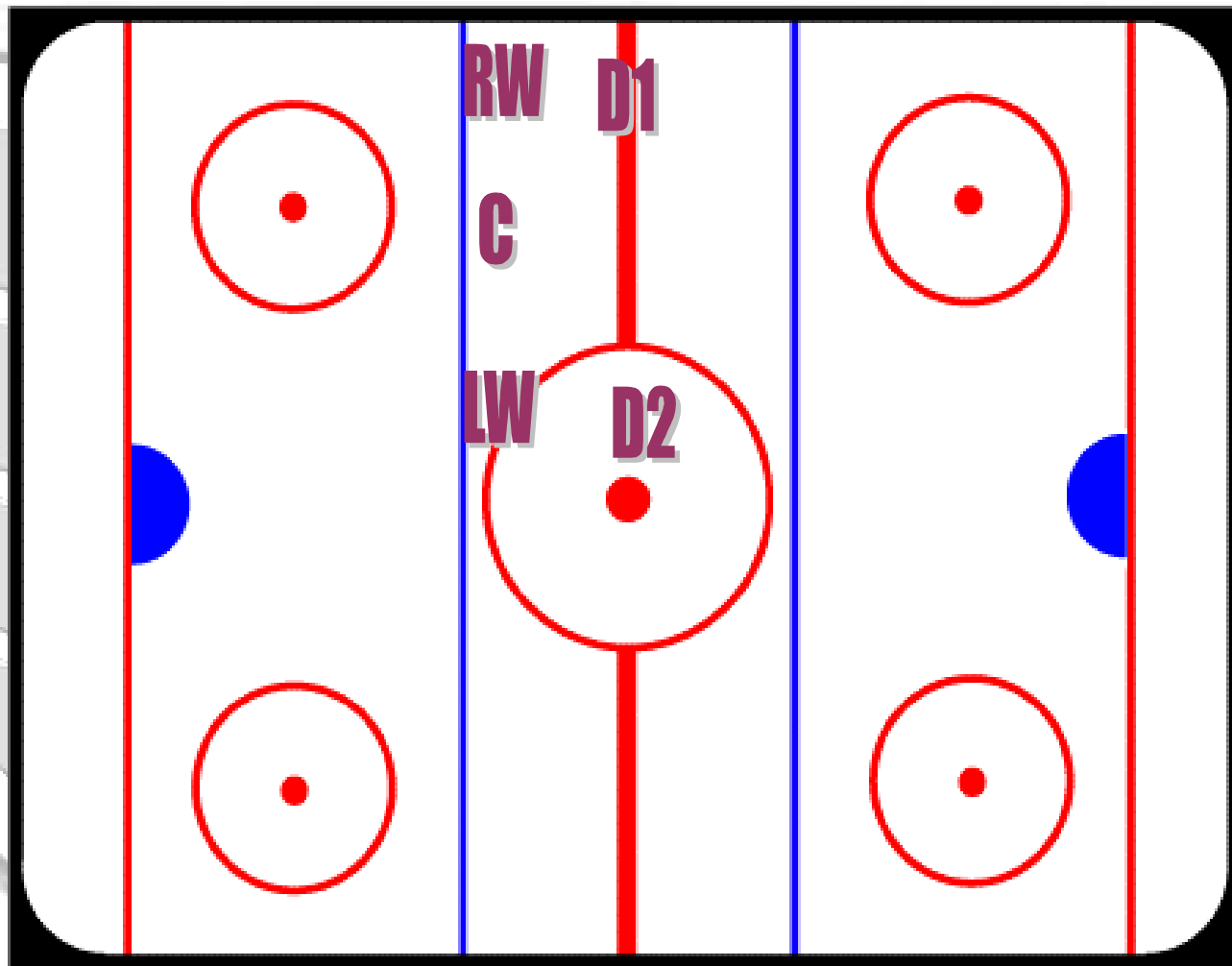
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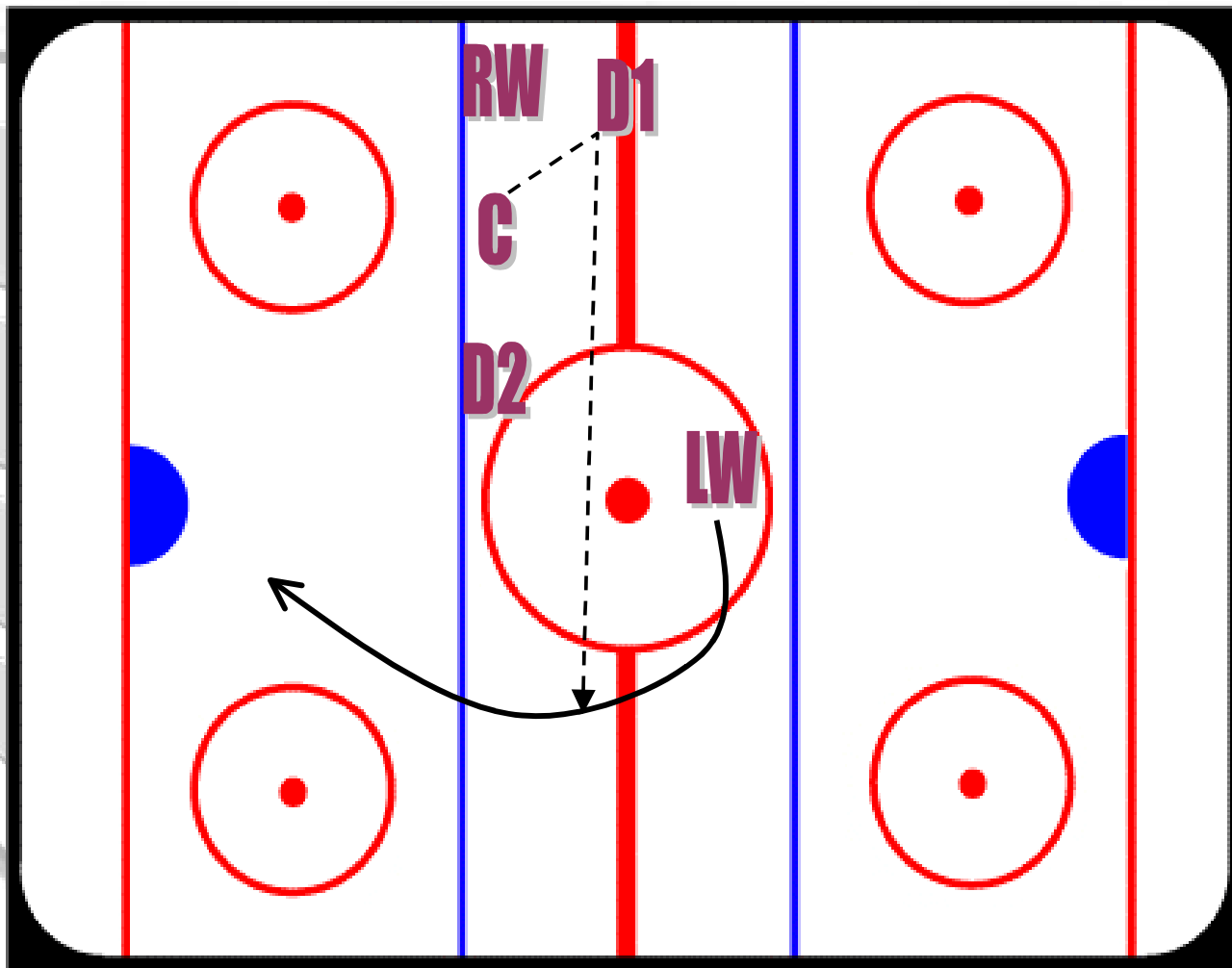


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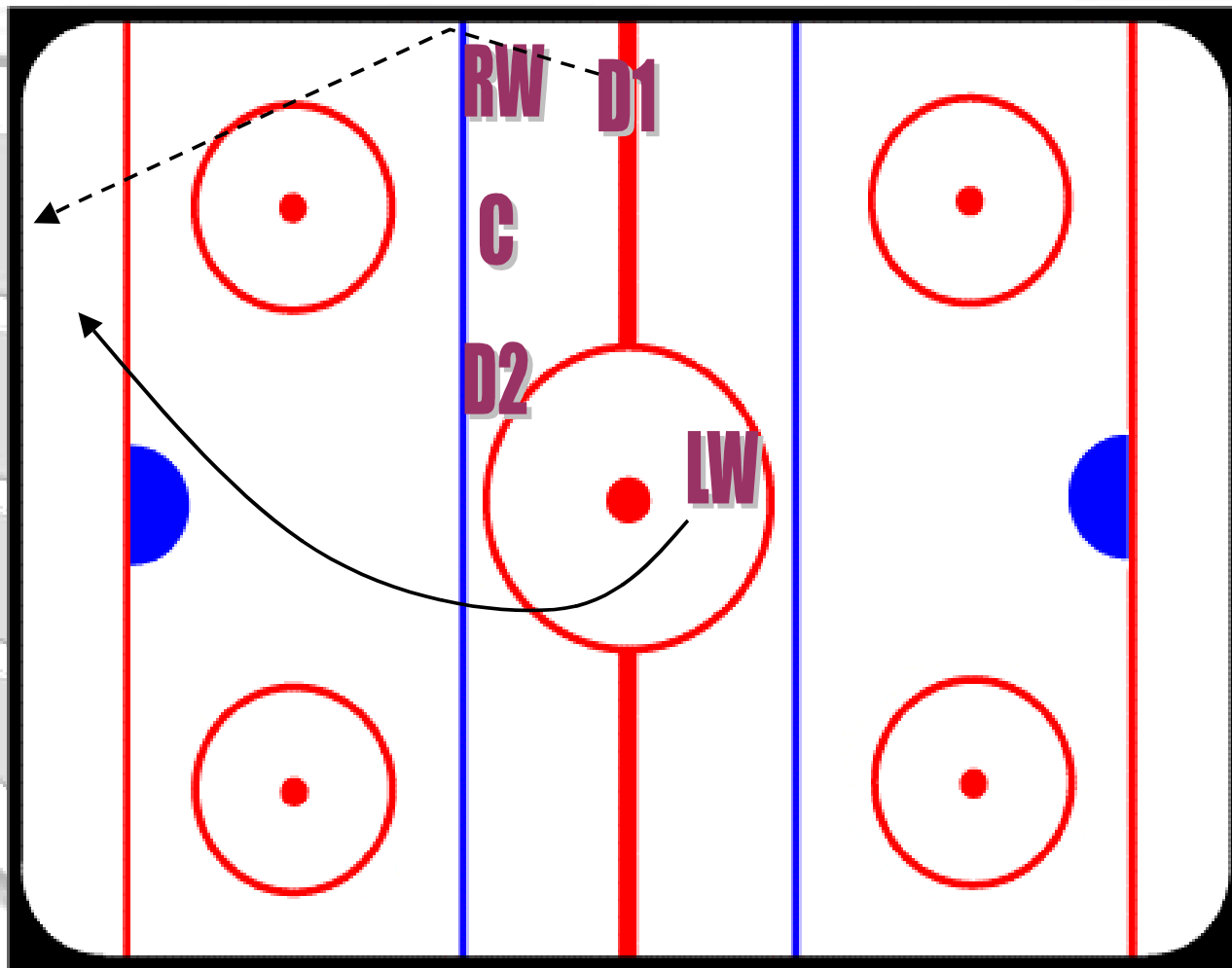
NZ Face-Off

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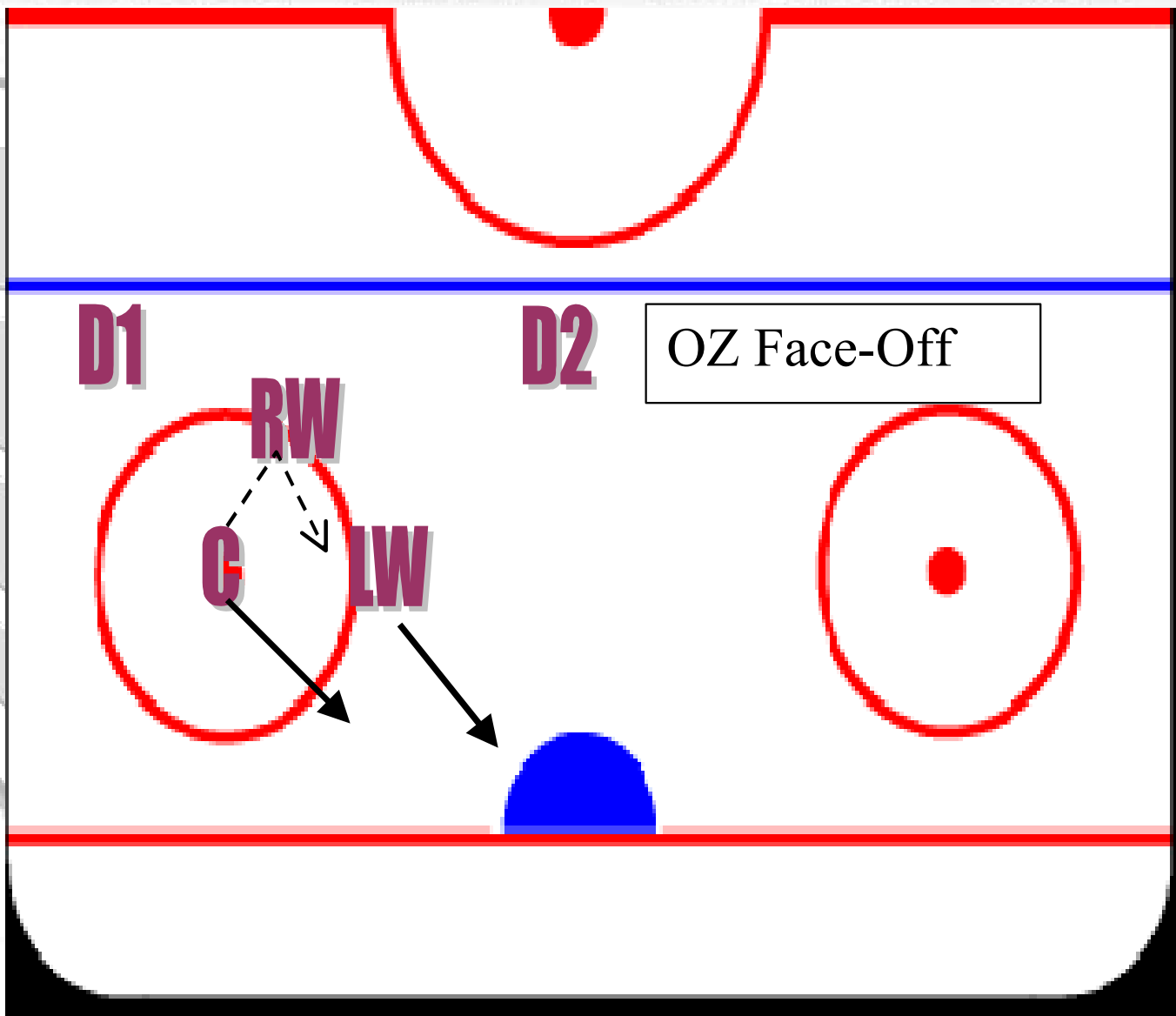
NZ Face-Off

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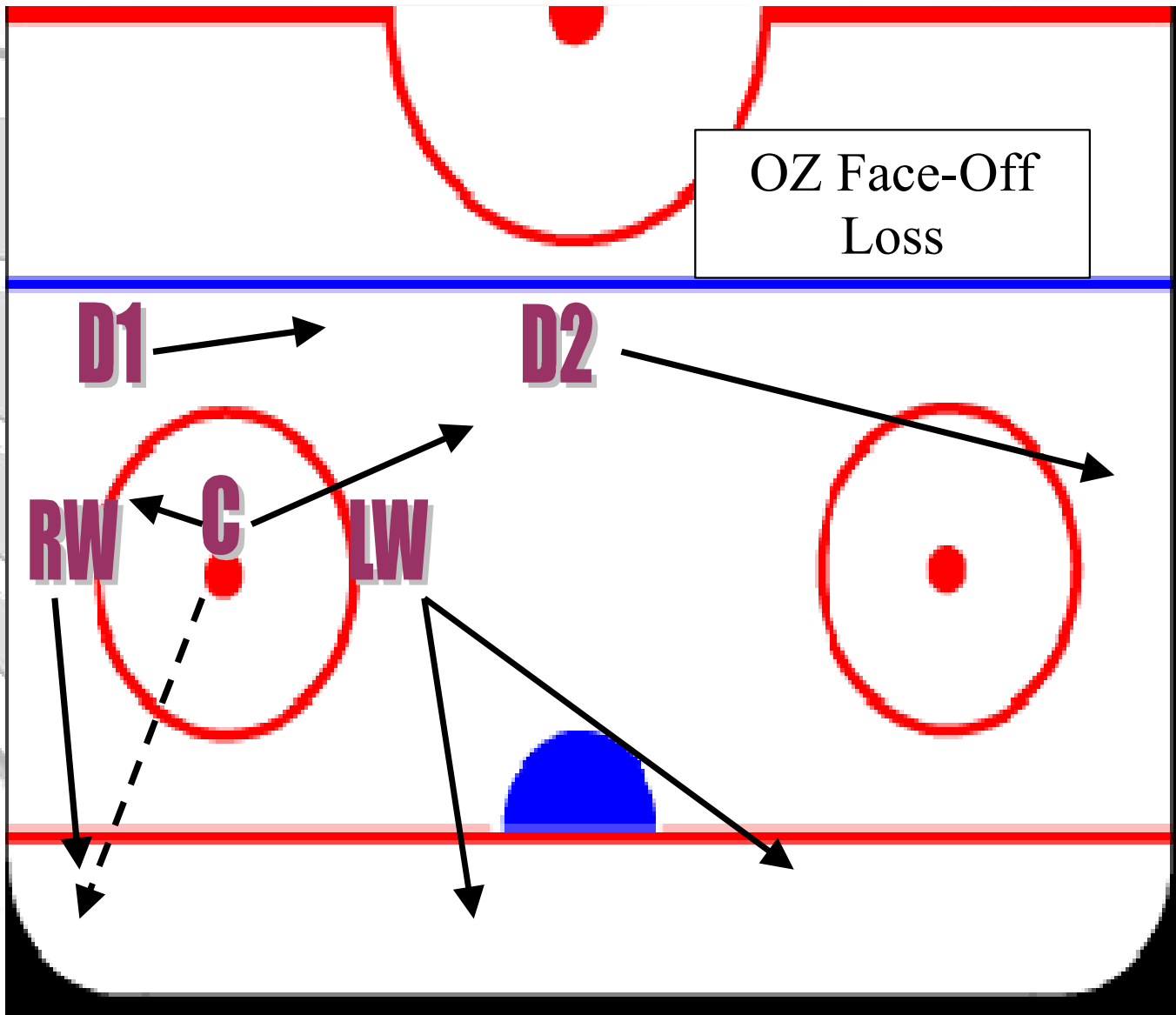


NZ Face-Off

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“Some games it seemed like they had the puck for the entire two minutes of a PP— or until they scored,” Devils defenseman Scott Stevens said at the time. “If you lose a PP face-off, you could lose 30 seconds of that PP time. Same thing with a PK. If you win that face-off, you can gain 30 seconds of possession.”

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“In 1994-95, the Red Wings were easily the most talented team in the league. They finished with a league-best 33-11-4 record in the lockout shortened season. Primeau was the team’s best face-off man, and the Wings dominated on the PP in part because of his skill at winning draws.”



Working on Face-Offs

- Ice time is expensive. This is an area of the game that can be worked on off the ice.
- Explain the rules and responsibilities in the dressing room.
- Have the players practice off the ice with a puck or a ball. Make it a competition that everyone can participate in. Make sure this is supervised.
- Substitute a dryland session for a ball hockey game. Use this setting to go over alignments and movements.
- Start drills from a face-off setting.