

A2 Russian Puck-Handling Warm-up with Shots

Key Points:

This can be done every time players go on the ice to expand their muscle memory. The point of these exercises is to increase the size of the reach with the stickhandling moves, and to separate the upper and lower body.

This is one of the most important exercises a player can do to develop puck handling skills. All the moves can also be practice off ice with various kinds of balls and pucks.

Description:

- From the A2 formation, players skate down the ice in 3 or 4 groups; practice big moves with the puck. One player leave and the next player go when he/she gets past the top of the circle. Finish with a shot from your lane no closer than the hash marks.
- . Go one way then the other and do a different skill each time.
- Reach forward while down on 1 knee, reach back as far as you can.
- Give the puck forward and take it back with the toe of the stick.
- Place hands close together and reach sideways each way as far as possible.
- Practice head fakes and shoulder drops, and move the puck quickly to the other side of your body.
- Do high step-overs, when you step with your right foot to the left, reach as far as possible to the right with the puck, step with the left foot to the right and reach as far as possible to the left with the puck.
- Reach back as far as you can with the puck, turning the upper body so you are looking behind you as you skate in the opposite direction. Do the same the other way.
- Do 3 or 4 crossovers to the left and reach as far as possible to the right with the puck, then cross over to the right and reach as far as possible to the left with the puck. Reach back as far as you can with the puck, turning the upper body so you are looking behind you as you skate in the opposite direction.
- Single fake by practicing a small fake one way, then quickly pull the puck across your body to the other side.
- Double fake by giving a small fake one way, then quickly pull the puck across your body to the other side. Immediately bring it back.
- Put the puck behind you and pass it up into your skates from 1 side, then the other.

- Have the puck in front of you and pass it back to your skates and up to your stick, then off the outside of each skate and to your stick.
- Reach back on the forehand, then quickly pull the puck across your body.
- Skate backwards with the puck after pivoting to the right and do the same after pivoting left.
- Slide sideways, pushing about 4 or 5 times with the inside skate and gliding on the outside skate. Fake passes and shots while skating like this.
- Pivot a complete circle to the left and then to the right.
- . Fake a slapshot and go around opponent on the backhand side.
- . Fake a slapshot and go around opponent on the forehand side.
- . Fake a slapshot and then do a backhand tight turn around opponent.
- . Fake a slapshot and reach out like you are going around the opponent on your forehand and then pull the puck quickly to your backhand and go around opponent.

Any move can be practiced in this method.

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