

## **Special Teams: Power Play / Penalty Kill**

- How do you structure your power play to optimize puck movement and shot selection?
- What principles guide your penalty kill strategy against today's most dynamic offenses?
- How do you adapt your special teams approach game-to-game based on opponent tendencies?
- What drills do you use in practice to simulate high-pressure special teams situations?
- What adjustments do you make mid-game if your special teams are struggling?
- How do you decide who quarterback's your power play unit?
- What role does deception play in both the power play and penalty kill?
- How do you train players to read pressure and react under duress on special teams?
- What metrics or KPIs do you track to evaluate special teams efficiency?

## **Practice Planning**

- How do you balance skill development with systems work in a typical practice session?  
What is your approach to designing an efficient and high-tempo practice?
- How do you tailor practices for different parts of the season (preseason vs. playoffs)?
- What role does player feedback play in shaping your practice plans?
- How do you ensure transfer of practice skills into games?
- What's your process for correcting bad habits in practice?
- How do you incorporate competition into practice sessions?
- How do you adjust practice intensity based on your game schedule?
- What's your approach to integrating special teams into everyday practice?

## **Player Development**

- What does individualized player development look like in your organization?
- How do you track and measure player growth across a season?
- What are the key off-ice habits you encourage players to adopt for long-term success?

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How do you bridge the gap between developmental goals and team performance needs?

- How do you support underperforming players while maintaining standards?
- How do you create a feedback loop with players about their development goals?
- What's your approach to developing "hockey IQ"?
- How do you incorporate video review into individual player development?
- How do you prioritize development in a high-pressure "win now" environment?

### Forwards

- How do you coach creativity and decision-making for forwards in the offensive zone?
- What habits distinguish elite forwards at the professional level?
- How do you develop chemistry among line combinations?
- What role do faceoffs and puck possession strategies play in forward group responsibilities?
- What are your expectations of forwards on the backcheck?
- How do you develop offensive instincts without restricting creativity?
- What role do forwards play in defensive zone exits and transition?
- How do you coach off-puck movement and timing for forwards?
- How do you approach building a top line versus a bottom-six role?

### Defense

- What are the fundamentals you prioritize in developing defensemen?
- How do you coach gap control and defensive stick positioning?
- What's your approach to activating defensemen in the offensive zone?
- How do you teach defensemen to manage high-pressure situations in the defensive zone?
- How do you help defensemen become better puck movers?
- What's your approach to teaching defensive zone coverage systems?
- How do you develop communication among D-pairs and with goaltenders?
- How do you teach D to manage offensive zone pinches?
- What tools or drills help defensemen improve breakout execution?

## Goaltending

- How do you integrate goaltending development within team practices?
- What are the biggest technical or mental hurdles young goalies face transitioning to pro?
- How do you build goalie confidence after a tough performance?
- What data or video insights do you rely on most to support your goalies?
- How do you build a strong relationship between goalies and the rest of the team?
- What's your communication strategy with your goaltending coach?
- How do you manage a two-goalie rotation or goalie controversy?
- How do you assess when a goalie needs rest vs. more reps?
- How do you evaluate a goalie's puck handling skills and impact on team breakout?

## Video / Analytics

- How do you use video to reinforce learning and accountability with players?
- What metrics do you track most closely to evaluate team and individual performance?
- How do you ensure analytics insights are actionable for coaching decisions?
- What balance do you strike between instinct and data in in-game adjustments?
- What's your pre- and post-game video process with players?
- How do you ensure players are receptive to video feedback?
- How do you teach players to understand and use analytics themselves?
- What's your process for blending subjective eye-test with objective data?
- How do you use video to reinforce identity and team structure?

## Pre-Scouts

- What does your pre-scout process look like, and who's involved?
- How do you tailor your game plan based on pre-scout findings without overwhelming players?
- What tools or resources have improved your pre-scouting the most in recent years?
- How do you emphasize key opponent tendencies without losing your team's identity?

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- How do you prioritize what to include in team meetings before games?
- How do you use video clips effectively in pre-scout meetings?
- What information do players value most in pre-scout reports?
- How do you identify and exploit tendencies in opponent special teams?
- How do you scout matchups and plan line deployment accordingly?

### **Building Team Culture**

- What are the non-negotiables in your team culture?
- How do you address conflict or challenges to team chemistry?
- How do you balance accountability with empowerment in building culture?
- What role do leadership groups play in sustaining a strong locker room environment?
- How do you build culture with a new team or in a short-term environment?
- How do you handle veterans who may challenge the culture?
- How do you integrate young or new players into an established team culture?
- How do you celebrate small wins to maintain morale over a long season?
- What are some daily habits or routines that support strong culture?

### **Career Development**

- What steps can young coaches take to grow and find new opportunities?
- How have mentors shaped your coaching journey?
- How do you continue to learn and evolve as a coach?
- What advice would you give to coaches navigating transitions between levels or roles?
- What were pivotal moments or decisions that advanced your coaching career?
- How do you build a professional network in the coaching world?
- What's the biggest mistake you learned from early in your career?
- How do you develop leadership skills as a coach?
- What resources (books, mentors, clinics, certifications) were most helpful in your career?