

SEE THE CUT

— PRACTICE LAB —

Recognize the opening behind the zone—even when the pass isn't thrown.

1 ADVANTAGE DRILL

ATTACK THE GAP → CUT BEHIND THE ZONE

PURPOSE:

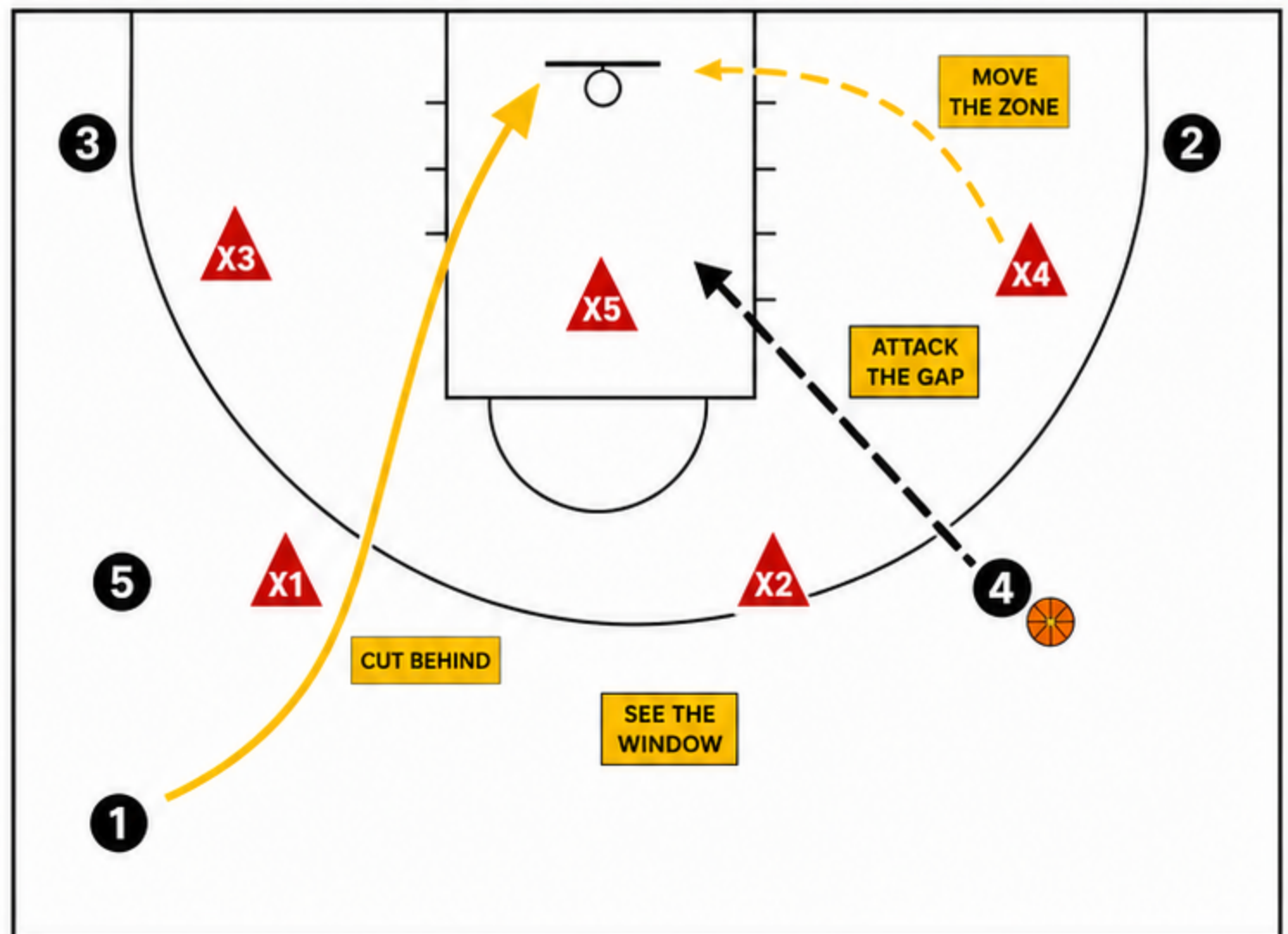
Train players to move the zone, attack a gap, and recognize the weakside cutter behind the second-line defender. The read can be correct even when the pass is not thrown.

SETUP:

- 5 offensive players vs. a 2-3 zone.
- Offense begins in 4-out, 1-in spacing.
- Ball starts on the left side and is reversed to #4 on the right wing.
- #1 begins on the weakside baseline.
- Coach may freeze the action to identify the cutting window.

EXECUTION:

1. Reverse the ball to shift the zone.
2. #4 catches and attacks the seam.
3. The interior defenders collapse toward the ball.
4. #1 cuts behind the occupied bottom defenders.
5. #4 reads the rim-cut window before the zone recovers.
6. Finish with the cutter, score, or make the next open pass.
7. Reset and repeat from both sides.



2 TEACHING POINTS

- Move the zone before attacking.
- Attack the seam under control.
- The cutter reads the defender—not the ball.
- Cut behind the defender's vision.
- Arrive as the driver reaches the paint.
- See the cut without forcing the pass.

3 PROGRESSIONS

1. Guided walk-through
2. 3-on-2 recognition
3. 4-on-4 live zone
4. 5-on-5
5. Add an 8-second shot clock
6. Play live

4 VARIATIONS

- Run from either side.
- Use a baseline runner.
- Add a dunker-spot cut.
- Allow the skip pass when low help sinks.
- Require a paint touch before any shot.

5 FILM ROOM QUESTIONS

Pause as #4 attacks the gap.

1. What moved the zone?
2. Which defender lost sight of #1?
3. When did the cutting window open?
4. Was the cut still correct without the pass?
5. What is the next read if the cut is covered?

6 CAN YOU TEACH THIS?

- ☐ Reverses the ball to shift the zone
- ☐ Attacks the correct seam
- ☐ Cuts behind the defender's vision
- ☐ Times the cut with the paint touch
- ☐ Sees the window without forcing it
- ☐ Maintains spacing after the cut
- ☐ Executes at game speed

7 MASTERY CHALLENGE



Complete 6 consecutive possessions with the correct zone shift, gap attack, weakside cut, and next read. Reset after a forced pass, early cut, spacing mistake, or missed recognition.

8 GAME APPLICATION

- Against a zone, the weakside cut opens when the ball enters the gap and the bottom defender turns toward the drive.
- Even without a pass, the cut occupies help and can open the rim, short corner, or skip.

9 BUILD YOUR PLAYBOOK

1 MOVE THE ZONE



2 ATTACK THE GAP



3 CUT BEHIND



4 MAKE THE READ



10 COACH'S NOTES

PERSONNEL ADJUSTMENTS: _____

TERMINOLOGY: _____

COUNTERS: _____

PRACTICE NOTES: _____

GAME-PLAN IDEAS: _____