Basketball Tasmania High Performance
Coach Development Clinic
Friday, March 5, 2021 – Kingborough Sports Centre, Hobart

Developing the Cutting Game

Introduction –

- Three foundations of effective offence
    - Spacing
    - Ball movement
    - Player movement
- Cutting the "lost art" of modern offence with the prevalence of ball screens and also defined floor spots on dribble penetration
- As part of a young players "offensive literacy", they need to be able to cut

- Why cut?
    - Create an advantage for the cutter
    - Create an advantage for the player with the ball
    - Create an advantage for a team-mate

- Cutting thoughts –
    - Get more cuts at the front of the rim than your opponent
    - "Basketball is a game of opposites"
    - "Don't fight pressure"
    - "See a head, see a shoulder" – Paul Kelleher

- Cutting types – the four priorities for a young player
    - Basket cut
    - Back cut
    - Cut off second movement (receivers)
    - Curl cut

Drill One – 2 v 2 plus 1 jump the cut

- Guard/forward 2 v 2 plus a coach at opposite seam
- "Defence shall be your instructor"
- Ball starts with coach, guard needs to get open (defence vary coverage)
- On the catch, pass to wing
- Play the path of least resistance – back cut, face cut
- Defence is "coach friendly" to assist the offence

Drill Two – 4 v 4 seam cut

- 4 out setting in the 4 v 4
- On every guard to forward pass, must be a cut
- Only score can come from action created off the guard cut
- Weak-side guard can cut on pass to wing – "see a head, see a shoulder"
- Wings can penetrate on the back of the cutter

The sacrificial cut to key the action –

- Entry pass – speed to create action behind (penetration/2nd cut)
- Back cut to change sides of attack – Perth Wildcats Flex
- Hard curl – WNBL Hub
- Cutting the post feed

Drill Three – 3 v 3 cut to create the cut

- Guard, guard wing – entry pass to fill cut/back cut
- Wing, short corner, guard – short corner catch, basket cut, back cut
- Guard, wing, corner – back cut, lift into back cut
- Guard, guard, weak-side wing – back cut to fill and back cut

Drill Four – 4 v 4 cut the shake

- 4 v 4 Shakes alignment
- Engage the ball screen
- Cutting action – opposite shake spot, opposite corner
- Screening action – flare screen and dive, down screen and curl
- Cutting is effective v the ball screen as teams load behind the ball

Summary –

- The best players in the game do the simple things at a high level – LeBron (back cut), Stephen Curry (best screening PG in NBA), Taurasi (curl cut)
- Important to develop young players "offensive literacy" and cutting a big part of that
- Fun to teach, fun to play – never more important for coaches to create a sense of enjoyment in practice