

10-Practice Princeton Offense Install Plan

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How to use this plan: Teach one layer at a time. Do not add a new set until players can explain the defensive trigger behind the current read. The goal is a playable package with spacing, Chin, Point, Low, counters, and live recognition.

Install Overview

Practice	Main Layer	End-of-Practice Standard
1	Spacing and terminology	Players identify slots, wings, corners, high post, and replacement spots.
2	Passing angles and pass-cut-fill	Players move after every pass and keep one defender from guarding two.
3	Backdoor read	Players cut on denial instead of waiting for a coach call.
4	Chin entry	Team can run Chin both directions at controlled speed.
5	Chin continuation	Players reverse, replace, and flow into the second side.
6	Point action	Players recognize over, under, and away reads.
7	Low action	Post player reads cutters, seals, and handoff angles.
8	Counters	Team answers denial, switching, help, and sagging defense.
9	Special situations	Team has late-clock, zone, pressure, and after-timeout answers.
10	Controlled scrimmage	Team produces quality shots without stopping after the first option.

Practice 1: Spacing and Terminology

Introduce the floor spots and the language your staff will use all season. Freeze whenever one defender can guard two offensive players.

- Warmup: five-spot spacing without defense.
- Drill: pass, cut, and replace from every perimeter spot.
- Live segment: 4-on-0 spacing into 4-on-4 no-dribble possessions.

Practice 2: Passing Angles

Teach players to pass before the window closes. Focus on footwork, ball fakes, and catching ready to pass or shoot.

- Drill: wing entry pass under light pressure.
- Drill: high-post catch, pivot, and hit cutter.
- Checkpoint: players name the next open pass after every catch.

Practice 3: Backdoor Read

The first major Princeton read is simple: if the defender denies, cut behind. Teach the passer and cutter together.

- Drill: 2-on-2 denial read.
- Drill: passer holds until the cutter's top foot wins.
- Live segment: defense alternates deny and sag looks.

Practice 4: Chin Entry

Install Chin as the first named action because it teaches spacing, high-post passing, and the backdoor threat.

- Walkthrough: alignment, entry, high-post flash, first cut.
- Drill: 3-on-3 Chin read at both sides.
- Checkpoint: no player stands after passing.

Practice 5: Chin Continuation

Add the second side. Players must know how to clear, replace, reverse, and keep the action alive.

- Drill: Chin into reversal.
- Drill: skip pass against help.
- Live segment: 5-on-5 with one required reversal before shot.

Practice 6: Point Action

Introduce Point as a companion to Chin, not a separate offense. Teach over, under, and away reads.

- Drill: Point over read.
- Drill: Point under read.
- Checkpoint: players identify which read the defender gave them.

Practice 7: Low Action

Use Low to change the angle and involve the post. The post should be a passer and decision-maker, not a statue.

- Drill: post catch and cutter read.
- Drill: handoff or keeper decision.
- Live segment: 4-on-4 with post touch required.

Practice 8: Counters

Install counters only after the base actions are clear. Tie every counter to a defensive trigger.

- Switching: slip, re-screen, or seal the mismatch.
- Denial: backdoor and weakside fill.
- Sagging help: catch-and-shoot or quick reversal.

Practice 9: Special Situations

Prepare the pieces that decide games: late-clock, zone looks, pressure, and after-timeout execution.

- Late clock: one quick Chin or Point trigger.
- Zone: high-post flash and short-corner spacing.
- Pressure: dribble-at release and backdoor punishments.

Practice 10: Controlled Scrimmage

Score the habits you want. Award bonus points for correct reads, not just made baskets.

- Two points: backdoor layup off denial.
- One point: correct skip against help.
- One point: high-post touch that creates a quality shot.

Staff Review Questions

- Which read is automatic now?
- Which defensive trigger still creates hesitation?
- Which lineup keeps the best spacing?
- Which counter do we trust late in a game?

For the full Princeton Offense system, diagrams, counters, and drill library, visit <https://coachprincetonbasketball.com/book/>