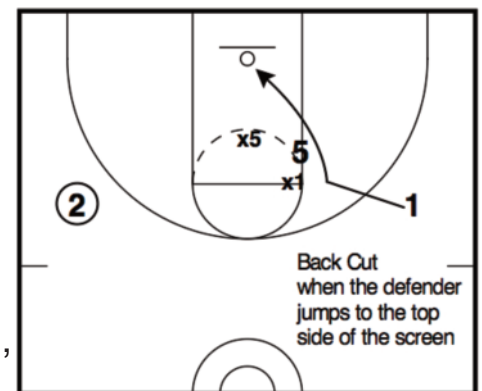


ADDING MOTION DECISION MAKING

The offense to this point is fairly straight forward. It requires little thinking on the part of the offensive players. The ball is passed from the point to the wing and the three players on the weak side engage in the circle motion cutting series. Once this action is mastered, additional decision making can be layered on top. This is where the offense becomes interesting, and can cause the defense fits. Giving the players options to vary their cuts will provide unpredictability, but requires the offensive players to be able to make reads, and react to their teammates decisions.

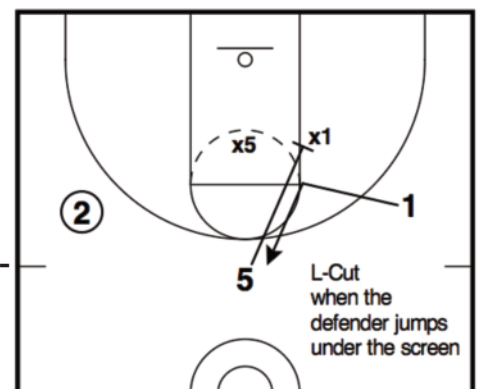
Back Cut (Butt Cutter's Decision)

The first cut we implement when adding decision making to our cutting is the ability to back cut as the butt cutter. When the defense tries to jam the cut or gets caught on the high side, a sharp, violent cut before the butt cutter reaches the down screener can create a layup, or at least cause the defense to help on the cut, which will increase the chances of another offensive player being open. This develops quickly, so the passer must anticipate this action, and be ready to fire a strike if the cutter is open.



L-Cut (Butt Cutter's Decision)

The second cut to implement when adding decision making is the L-cut. This is also a decision made by the butt cutter. When the defense is going under the down screener to meet the cutter on the other side, the butt cutter can L-cut to the top of the key. This is particularly effective against sagging defenses.

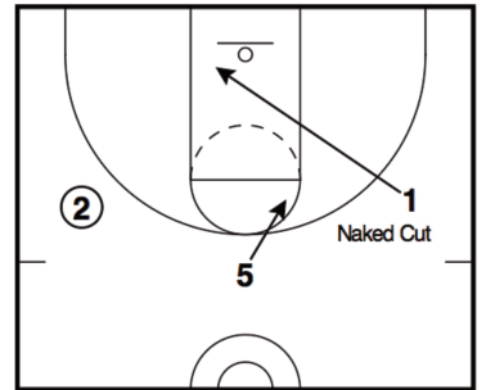


The L-cut is the third option for the butt cutter. In most basic version of the offense he is going to hard curl, and then progresses to have the ability to read the defense and decide to back cut or L-cut. It's not always clear what the correct cut is to make for the butt cutter, so we, as coaches, teach them to be decisive and prepared to make the right choice. Cut hard; it's not the worst thing in the world to make the wrong cut, but whatever cut you make, it needs to be a hard cut.

The L-cut requires a reaction from the other cutters. Once the decision has been made to L-cut by the butt cutter, the down screener should slip to the rim, and the long cutter should L-cut to the wing. This will keep optimal spacing for the offense, and optimal stress on the defense, having a cutter finishing his cut at the top of the key, the weak side wing, and at the rim.

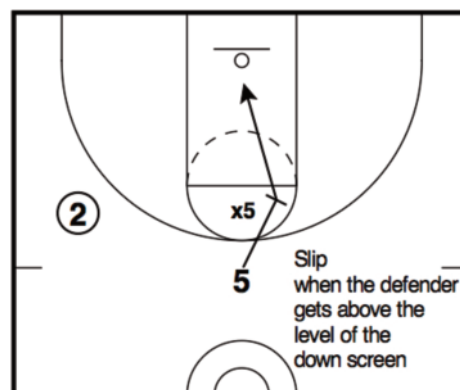
Naked Butt Cut (Butt Cutter's Decision)

The final cut that can be made by the butt cutter, is what we call a *naked cut*. This is an attempted face cut made by the butt cutter before the down screener has arrived in screening position. In all honesty, it was never a cut that we taught, but a player in our program started doing it, and it was effective. We let him keep making this cut and it became a legitimate option. When the defense is expecting to be working around a screen and all of a sudden they are facing a speed cut, it can catch them off guard. It is a worthwhile variation to the offense. Like the back cut, the naked cut requires no reaction from the other cutters in the bunch action. This cut can be made in front or behind the defender, with the most important factor being the speed of the cut.



Slip (Down Screener's Decision)

Prior to touching on the slip, all the previous cuts that have been described have been decisions by the butt cutter, with the L-cut requiring a reaction from the other cutters, and the other cuts not requiring a reaction. The slip is a decision made by the down screener and requires the other cutters to react. The slip can work well against switching defenses and teams that screen hedge off the ball screens. When the down screener's defender gets above his screen, he can plant his outside foot and snap his head around to slip to the basket. When this happens, the butt cutter must L-cut and the long cutter also must L-cut. It's the only way we end up with the spacing we desire; one cutter finishing at the rim, one on the weak side wing, and one at the top of the key. If the down screener slips and the butt cutter back cuts, we now have two cutters going to the rim. In all likelihood, neither player will be open because the spacing will allow one defender to essentially defend both cutters. Even poor defensive teams can get one out of two defenders to appropriately defend one of the cuts to the rim; therefore the down screener slipping requires the butt cutter and the long cutter to L-cut. The slip should be made behind the down screener's defender, usually in a pocket between the down screener's defender and the butt cutter's defender.



Naked Face Cut (Down Screener's Decision)

A naked face cut by the down screener is an option to try to catch the down screener's defender by surprise. If the cut is unsuccessful, it puts little stress on the defense. The naked face cut requires the butt cutter and the long cutter to both L-cut, so no actual screening will take place. This cut allows for more variation in the offense and has the potential to stress pressure defenses. This cut needs to be made in front of the defender, not behind him. If this decision is made, the offense has essentially become a pass, cut, and fill action.

