Basketball Plays - Out-of-Bounds Plays vs the 2-3 Zone
From the Coach’s Clipboard Basketball Playbook, @ http://www.coachesclipboard.net

Many teams will play a 2-3 zone to defend against the out-of-bounds play under the basket. Here are some plays you can run against a 2-3 zone.

Splitter, 23 Stack, Indiana, Middle, Offset, 23 Box, Missouri, Kansas-1, and Kansas-2.

Also see out-of-bounds Box Plays, Stack Plays, 4-Low Plays, More OB Plays, and Michigan State’s Baseline Plays.

Out-of-Bounds Play "Splitter"
Diagram A. Notice that the defense is aligned in a 2-3 zone. O3 has the ball out of bounds. O5 lines up above the blocks, between the X4 and X5 defenders. O4 stacks outside the X1 defender. O1 and O2 form a mini-stack above the X1 defender.

When O1 yells "go", O5 seals the inside defender. O2 (your best shooter) cuts around O4’s screen to the ball-side corner. O2 could get the pass here and the three-point shot. Now if the X4 defender moves out toward the corner, O4 slides down the lane into the gap looking for the pass and shot (Diagram B). You should have a 2-on-1 situation with the X4 defender. Either O2 or O4 should be open.

Out-of-Bounds Play “23 Stack”
We stack on the ball-side lane line, and make sure the stack does not start too low... get them up near the elbow. Your best outside shooter is O2, and O4 and O5 are post players. O1 is the point guard. O2 cuts to the corner calling for the ball. This will probably get the outside low defender (X3) to move out to the corner with O2. Meanwhile, O5 screens on the middle defender, and O4 slides into the gap created by the screen, for the inbounds pass and easy shot (diagram B). O1 is your safety and splits out to the ball-side wing.

Diagram C. If the X3 defender stays inside, then O2 is open in the corner for the three-point shot. The inbound passer O3 has to read what the X3 defender does... if X3 goes outside with O2, pass inside to O4. If X3 stays inside, pass to O2 in the corner.
Out-of-Bounds Play “Indiana”
Here’s another baseline out-of-bounds play you can run against the 2-3 zone. In diagram A, your strong post player (O5) sets a screen on the middle defender X4. O4 cuts around the screen, moving out to the short corner or corner area, calling "ball, ball, ball". This should get the X5 defender to move outside also onto O4. Now O5 seals for inside position, gets the inbounds pass and the power lay-up (diagram B).

Notice that O2 can cut to the opposite short corner for a shot, or maybe even steal the inside position from the X3 defender for a lay-up. O1 is our safety for the outlet pass if nothing develops inside. After making the inbounds pass, O3 should move to the opposite corner-wing area.

Out-of-Bounds Play “Middle”
See the diagrams below. Put your best shooters on the blocks. They will split out wide to the corners looking for the pass and corner 3-point shot. Stack your two post players in the middle near the free-throw line. After O1 and O2 start their cuts to the corners, hopefully the outside low defenders will go with them to the corners. O3 and O4 cut around the middle defender to each block... one should be open for the lay-up. Or, a corner 3-point shot may be open if the defenders stay inside.
Out-of-Bounds Play "Offset"
See the diagrams below. Notice the setup, like an offset box. This play will get us a corner 3-point shot the first time we run it, and the inside shot the second time. Notice that our post players 3 and 4 screen the middle and outside low defenders. Our best shooter (2) slips into the corner for the pass and shot. Now see Diagram C. The next time, let the outside defender slip out to the corner, and 4 should be open inside for the pass and shot. 1 has to occupy the X2 defender so that X2 will not cover the corner.

Out-of-Bounds Play "23 Box"
This is a very effective play if you have a good tall post player with long arms. See the diagrams below. 2 tries to duck inside the weakside low defender calling "ball, ball, ball" to occupy that defender. 1 drops out to the point. 3 screens the backside of the middle low defender, pinning him/her underneath the basket. 4 slides in behind 3's screen for the lob pass and shot.

Out-of-Bounds Play "Missouri"
Run this play vs the 2-3 zone defense. This play combines elements of "Indiana" and "Splitter" above. Notice the box set. O5 screens the top ballside defender and O1 cuts over that screen to the ballside wing, as our safety outlet. At the same time, O4 cross-screens the weakside low defender (diagram A) and O2 cuts over the screen to the ballside corner. After screening, O4 seals the defender (X4), and calls for the ball. A quick inside pass to O4 may be open. If the middle low defender (X5) slides over to deny O4, we now read the ballside low defender (X3). If X3 stays inside (diagram B), the inbounds pass goes to our shooter O2 for the 3-point shot in the corner. If X3 moves out to the corner to deny O2 (diagram C), O5 slides up the lane line for the inbounds pass and the inside shot.
Out-of-Bounds Play "Kansas-1"
The next two plays have been used by coach Bill Self of Kansas, vs the 2-3 zone. They both feature the same starting set, so the defense does not know which one is coming. In Kansas-1 below, we start with players aligned as seen in the first diagram. O2 (our best shooter) fake-screens for O5 and cuts to the corner. O1 moves toward the wing. O5 moves inside and screens the middle low defender (diagram B), as O2 occupies the outside low defender. O4 slips into the vacant slot for the open pass from O3. O3 has to read the outside low defender. If the defender goes outside with O2, O4 should be open. If the defender stays inside, O2 should be open for a 3-point shot.

Out-of-Bounds Play "Kansas-2"
This play has been used by coach Bill Self of Kansas, vs the 2-3 zone. It features a "sweep" type action and uses the same starting set as Kansas-1 above, so the defense does not know which play is coming. In Kansas-2 below, O5 screens for O4 and then moves down toward the block. O4 cuts over O5's screen to the corner and receives the inbounds pass from O3. O3 cuts under O2 and goes to the right corner. O4 passes to O1 on top. O1 dribbles to the middle for a better passing angle, as O4 cuts under the O5-O2 double-screen. O5 screens the outside low defender and O2 screens the middle defender. This leaves only the other low defender to defend both O4 and O3 in the corner. O1 could pass to O4, or to O3 for a corner shot. If the outside low defender stays inside on O4, then O3 is wide open. And vice-versa, if the defender goes out with O3, then O4 should be open for the inside pass. Another option is for O1 to pass to O2 coming around O5 for a 3-point shot.

You can also run Pinball, Box-2 and Box-Wide against the 2-3 zone.

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