



## Pre-Game Protocol Changes

Due to the recent media coverage and the possibility of spreading of the H1N1 virus, BLOMHA will adopt the following procedures for the immediate future. **This procedure will be effective immediately and will remain in force until further notice.**

1. The captains from each team prior to the game will go to center ice with gloves on and tap gloves in a show of sportsmanship representative of the entire team. The other participants from both teams should wait at their respective benches for the start of the game. Captains, after greeting each other are to return to their respective benches; there is to be no contact with opposition Coaches.
2. Hockey Canada Fair Play Code – Game Officials and Coaches shall eliminate the Fair Play handshake at the start of each game. Rather, Officials will approach the team benches so that Coaches and Officials may wish each other a good game.
3. There is to be absolutely NO contact with team or player's water bottles. Please, don't even touch team water bottles.
  - If you need to drink water during a game, you must bring your own.
  - If you need water to repair ruts in the ice, have a player bring the bottle over and squirt the water for you.

### **Other way to help prevent the spread of H1N1**

Referees are urged to stay away from the hockey environment if they are showing any signs of infectious disease or virus. Sick referees are encouraged to see their physician if showing signs or symptoms of the H1N1 virus, and to be fully recovered prior to returning to officiate.

Referees are encouraged to wash hands routinely and always after handling hockey equipment. Frequent hand washing with soap and water is one of the best preventions we can recommend.

Officials should try and not touch their own mouths or nose when in the hockey environment to reduce the chance of them passing an infection on to themselves.

Referees should not share towels, clothing, bar soap or other personal items such as razors.

Referees are encouraged to get an H1N1 Flu shot. Clinics in Halton offering H1N1 immunizations can be found at the following website: [http://www.halton.ca/health/services/communicable\\_disease/H1N1/clinics.htm](http://www.halton.ca/health/services/communicable_disease/H1N1/clinics.htm)

Your cooperation with this very important issue is expected. Keep Smiling!

Regards,

Doug Sabine  
BLOMHA Referee-in-Chief