



# Ice Hockey Australia

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## From the Office of National Officiating Performance Manager

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As Ice Hockey commences its return to play in Australia, Ice Hockey Australia is recommending the following practises and rules be implemented by member state associations to protect the safety of their officials. At all times officials should adhere to the Australian Government guidelines:

- keep 1.5 metres away from others wherever possible
- avoid physical greetings such as handshaking, hugs and kisses
- promote good hand, sneeze and cough hygiene

The last point on hand hygiene is extremely important concerning puck and whistle management, officials should be directed to use one hand for puck control and one hand for whistle management. Additionally, officials are cautioned that no equipment, including but not limited to whistles, should be shared. It is recommended all officials carry hand sanitizer for personal use before, during and after games. Electronic Whistles such as the Fox 40, are approved for use in Ice Hockey Australia. Players and officials should also be reminded of the increased risk of respiratory droplets associated with shouting.

### Changing Rooms

Officials must adhere to the requirements set by ice rink operators determining the maximum capacity of people in an enclosed space. Should an officiating changing room have the capacity to hold more than 4 people it is recommended that access to the room is limited to the four officials working each game at any one time.

### Pre-Game

Officials are not required on the ice until after both teams have completed their warmups, and it is recommended that officials do not enter the ice surface until players are back at their benches ready to commence the game. The placement of goal nets and removal of pucks during/after the warm-up is the responsibility of the home team and, it is recommended this task is performed by a non-playing team official wearing appropriate personal protective equipment.

### Post-Game

Both teams are to leave the game adhering to the requirements set by ice rink operators. As soon as both teams are off the ice surface the officials should depart the ice surface. Scorekeepers should be instructed to bring the completed game sheet, for officials to action, to a suitable location that provides the ability to maintain adequate social distancing. Removal of goal nets is the responsibility of the home team and it is recommended this task is performed by a non-playing team official wearing appropriate personal protective equipment.



## Gameplay Rules & Standards

During gameplay it is recommended states implement a policy of penalising the following actions by any player or team official:

1. A player or team official who spits anywhere in the rink during the game will be penalised under IIHF Rule 168 Unsportsmanlike Conduct iii Misconduct (10')
2. A player or team official who, outside of normal gameplay, encroaches on and remains in an official's personal social distancing space of 1.5 meters will be penalised under IIHF Rule 116 Abuse of Officials iii Misconduct (10')
3. A player or team official who shouts at an official at any time during the game will be penalised under IIHF Rule 116 Abuse of Officials i Minor (2') and subsequently under iv Game Misconduct (20') if required.
4. All player scrums should be penalised, any gathering of players after the whistle should be penalised under IIHF Rule 158 Roughing i with a minor (2'), double minor (2'+2'), or major (5') and automatic game-misconduct (20') penalty.

Officials should be instructed not to approach the benches at any time before, during, or after the game and coaches should be utilising their captain and assistant captains to communicate with officials under the above guidelines. Officials should be advised to use caution when intervening in player scrums, where possible turn their heads away from players they are engaging with. At all times the official's safety must be the priority, game management and penalty prevention being secondary. Removal of goal nets, if required between period, is the responsibility of the home team and it is recommended this task is performed by a non-playing team official wearing appropriate personal protective equipment.

