

Blood Policy

The MHL acknowledges the HIV and Hockey position statement of the Canadian Academy of Sport Medicine (CASM) as accepted by the Canadian Hockey Association (CHA) and outlined in the CHA Hockey Trainers Safety Program with the following exception:

Under Sport Specific Prevention, Part 2, Section (b): 'all clothing with blood must be removed and replaced prior to return to participation.'

The MHL does not believe that it is mandatory to remove bloody clothing before returning to play in that:

1. Clothing must be defined (i.e. sweater or any piece of equipment such as gloves).
2. Virtually all minor hockey teams do not routinely carry spare equipment and hence any player who bloodies their uniform or equipment would be removed from the remainder of the game.
3. There is no evidence to suggest that HIV or any other potential pathogen would be transmitted or remain infective once on the affected clothing

THE MHL POLICY ON DEALING WITH A BLOODY WOUND IS:

- i) If a player suffers a bloody wound, their participation should be immediately interrupted until the bleeding is stopped and the wound is properly covered with a medically acceptable dressing. Every measure must be taken to remove or clean any blood present on a player's equipment or jersey prior to the player participating in the game.
- ii) All abrasions and skin lesions must be properly covered with a medically acceptable dressing prior to a player participating in an MHL sanctioned game or practice.
- iii) While dealing with a bloody wound the following must be done: * Wear waterproof gloves. * Place all soiled waste in a plastic bag for disposal.

For further information, refer to the Trainers Manual.