

## INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## ALLIANCE HOCKEY

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**Date:** September 18, 2020  
**Re:** Hockey Canada Scrums & Altercations Information  
**To:** ALLIANCE Hockey Officials, Coaches & Players

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A common occurrence in any game is gatherings during and after the play that may result in scrums and altercations. It is important that, when possible, we promote physical distancing of players. Although it is not completely avoidable, officials are encouraged to eliminate and control scrums and altercations to the best of their ability. Players and team officials have a responsibility to show resilience and composure in such situations.

### Direction for coaches and players:

- Coaches are asked to teach and communicate the importance of physical distancing once the whistle is blown to stop play. Players are expected to immediately leave the area and physically distance on the ice where possible.
- Support of the officials in these situations is required to prevent continued scrums and altercations from occurring.
- Players are encouraged not to continue the battle for the puck once the whistle has been blown and are asked to immediately leave the area after the stoppage of play.
- Although this should be the protocol at any time play is stopped, it becomes especially important during stoppages near the players' bench and in front of the net.

### Direction for officials:

- Officials are encouraged to utilize their whistle to stop play earlier and potentially prevent unnecessary scrums and altercations.
  - Quicker whistles may be required when the puck is being trapped along the boards to avoid the gathering of players.
  - Quicker whistles on net plays may be required to assist in preventing tempers to rise, resulting in scrums and altercations.
- Officials are encouraged to assess appropriate penalties to players causing scrums or altercations rather than verbal warnings if those players have not appropriately abided by the whistle and direction from the officials to leave the area.
  - Strict enforcement of Unsportsmanlike Conduct minor penalties under Rule 9.2(a) may be utilized by officials to assist in limiting these situations.



- Officials are encouraged to escalate to misconducts where players are continuing to engage or where teams after receiving penalties continue to cause scrums and altercations.

It is important that officials communicate with players and team officials regarding a high standard for scrums and altercations. Team officials must assist in educating and promoting respect amongst players to prevent situations that may escalate.

Officials are required to employ zero tolerance to discourage players from “face washing” other players and shall, if warranted, assess a double minor penalty for Head Contact in minor and female hockey. In Junior Hockey and above, officials may assess a minor penalty for Unsportsmanlike Conduct under Rule 9.2(a) and escalate to a misconduct should such behaviour continue.

**Suspensions:**

All suspensions incurred will be served in the subsequent game(s). Please note any suspension received not only impacts you but also your team, as teams are already playing with a shortened bench and does not have the ability to call on any Affiliate Players (AP) to assist.