

Hockey Etiquette

Pickup hockey is played for fun, by amateurs getting together at the arena for a non-competitive game with lax rules and no referees. Although rules are less important, etiquette takes on greater importance. Pickup hockey players are expected to play cleanly -- penalties aren't enforced, so players are expected to take it easy on each other. Being a team player takes on even greater importance, so you should never hog the puck.

At the end of the match, players will line up to shake hands. This is an opportune time for an apology if your temper got a little out of hand during the game. Don't forget, this is supposed to be fun.

A Blowout Situation

Like it or not, from time to time, one team will be hot and the other stone cold. You may and likely will be in both situations, so let's remember a few things if you're on the winning side....

- 1) **Close puck races that can be dangerous? Throttle back, Turbo.** If you can tell it will be close, let's avoid a collision or a little hack.
- 2) **Defensive pressure: dial it back a smidge.** If your opponent makes a great play and beats you, kudos, old chap. Most of the time this shell actually works in your favour when you're up, so don't go running at people.
- 3) **Don't drive wide.** The type of "good Canadian plays" that get rugged goals that coaches love...stop it. It's time to try for the perfect play. Those battle plays are for when it's close. Try to Sedin a few home.
- 4) **Be a little lax on the blue line call.** I mean, come on.
- 5) **Don't celebrate your goals** aside from a knuckle-bump with a teammate or two.