

OMHA Blood Policy

1.1 Blood Policy

The OMHA acknowledges the HIV and Hockey position statement of the Canadian Academy of Sport Medicine (CASM) as accepted by Hockey Canada and outlined in the Hockey Canada 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 OMHA does not believe that it is mandatory to remove bloody clothing before returning to play in that:

- a) Clothing must be defined (i.e. sweater or any piece of equipment such as gloves).
- b) 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.
- c) There is no evidence to suggest that HIV or any other potential pathogen would be transmitted or remain infective once on the affected clothing.

1.2 Bloody Wound Policy

- a) 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.
- b) All abrasions and skin lesions must be properly covered with a medically acceptable dressing prior to a player participating in an OMHA sanctioned game or practice.
- c) 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.