

# BRISBANE WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION INC

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

### 1. Acknowledgment

BWHA acknowledges that the Hockey Queensland policy on infectious diseases has been used to formulate this policy.

### 2. Application

In framing this policy it is important to consider the types of contagion that might be applicable to the normal environment that applies to the sport of Hockey. The primary consideration is that Hockey is a contact or collision sport.

It is strongly recommended that all contact and/or collision sports team physicians, other sports medicine staff, coaches, umpires, team managers, administrators, players and their parents be made aware of this policy and adopt the commonsense recommendations contained in the policy.

A number of blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted during body and collision sports. The more serious include HEPATITIS and HIV (AIDS) infections. These diseases may be spread by contact with:

- Blood
- Saliva (NOT HIV)
- Perspiration (NOT HIV)
- Other bodily fluids

The following recommendations will reduce the risk of disease transmission.

### 3. Open Cuts

All open cuts and abrasions shall be reported and treated immediately to preclude blood contamination of any item.

This is an area of principal concern to BWHA given that the skin can be broken very easily by contact with players and facilities or equipment.

### 4. Players

#### 1.1 Personal Hygiene

It is the player's responsibility to maintain strict personal hygiene, as this is the best method of controlling the spread of infectious diseases.

- 1.2 Vaccinations  
It is strongly recommended that all participants involved in hockey and playing under adult rules, be vaccinated for HEPATITIS B.
- 1.3 Player Medical Clearances  
Players with prior evidence of these diseases shall obtain clearances from a doctor prior to participation.  
BWA cannot be held responsible where players with prior evidence of these diseases have not disclosed this to BWA.

## **5. Team Areas**

- 1.4 Responsibilities  
As well as BWA being responsible for BWA sanctioned events. It is the member's club and member's joint and several responsibility to ensure that all dressing rooms are clean and tidy. Particular attention shall be paid to hand basins, toilets and showers. Adequate soap dispensers, paper hand towels or air dryers, brooms and disinfectants etc shall be available at all times.
- 1.5 Communal Bathing  
Communal bathing areas, eg spas shall be used at the risk of the user.
- 1.6 Spitting and Urinating  
The practice of spitting and urinating in team areas shall not be permitted.
- 1.7 Contaminated Articles  
All clothing, equipment and surfaces contaminated by blood shall be treated as being potentially infectious and treated accordingly.
- 1.8 Sharing Articles  
Sharing of towels, face washers and drink containers shall not occur.
- 1.9 Vaccinations  
It is strongly recommended that all personnel working in team areas should be vaccinated for HEPATITIS B.
- 1.10 Training  
In all training areas, open cuts and abrasions shall be reported to the coach or other suitable personnel and treated immediately.

## **6. Umpires and Game Officials**

### **1.11 Reporting**

Officials shall report all open cuts and abrasions at the first available opportunity.

### **1.12 Vaccinations**

It is recommended that those who officiate should be vaccinated for HEPATITIS B.

### **1.13 Contaminated Articles**

All contaminated clothing and equipment shall be replaced prior to the player being allowed to resume play.

### **1.14 Recurrent Bleeding**

If bleeding should recur, the above procedures shall be repeated.

### **1.15 Non-controllable Bleeding**

If bleeding cannot be controlled and the wound securely covered, the player shall not be allowed to continue in the game.

## **7. General**

If a player, official or BHOWA staff is found to be suffering from HEPATITIS or HIV then that person shall not resume training or play. Nor shall they be involved in any team or match, until cleared by his or her medical practitioner or the team medical practitioner.

## **8. Education**

There shall be an obligation on BHOWA and its member clubs to provide suitable information on the associated risk factor and prevention strategies of HEPATITIS B and HIV to all member clubs and members.