



Vancouver Island  
Amateur Hockey Association

# INFORMATION BULLETIN # 2009-10-IN

October 13, 2009

**TO: MHA Presidents, MHA Administrators**

**FROM: Marg Herba, Executive Director**

**SUBJECT: Handshake Policy for 2009-2010 Playing Season**

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Hockey Canada and BC Hockey have recently issued their position paper with regards to the recent and growing concerns regarding the H1N1 virus.

Vancouver Island has also acted on our member concerns and has addressed VIAHA Regulation 3.06 which reads:

"All players and team officials 'SHALL' shake hands at the conclusion of the game. Players 'SHALL' be required to remove their right hand glove for the handshake. Team Officials (coaches) will be disciplined accordingly for non-compliance. On-ice officials are to make note on the game sheet and forward to the Vice-President responsible for the supervision on such league."

**The following MOTION was presented, voted upon by electronic poll and was Carried at close of business on October 9, 2009:**

**MOTION:** (JdFMHA/CRMHA): "That VIAHA Regulation 3.06 be suspended for the 2009 - 2010 playing season and replaced with a one (1) year policy to address the H1N1 health issues. The VIAHA Policy will read "That the teams will be relieved from VIAHA Regulation 3.06 and players will be directed to tap gloves at the conclusion of games in lieu of the traditional handshake for the 2009 - 2010 playing season. The Fair Play Initiatives should remain as status quo between the on-ice officials and team officials unless otherwise discussed prior to any one game."

**CARRIED**

**Rationale:** With the outbreak of the H1N1 Flu Virus, health agencies are advising that protection measures be put in place to prevent the spread of this virus. Hockey Canada and BC Hockey both recognize this outbreak and are supportive of measures that are taken to reduce this spread.

As this will be a departure from the regular handshake that everyone is use to, VIAHA strongly advises:

1. All teams discuss this with their players.
2. All players and team officials be aware that a tap is a tap and any excessive actions noted will be written up and acted upon.
3. All Referee-In-Chiefs ensure that their game officials are aware of this 'glove tap' at the end of the game.
4. Game officials should confirm the 'glove tap' with team officials prior to each game.