



INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

(please note that some sports have their own policy)

It is strongly recommended that all contact sports coaches, managers, officials, players and their parents be informed of this policy and its commonsense recommendations.

A number of blood-borne diseases can be transmitted during body contact sports. The more serious include HEPATITIS and HIV (AIDS) infections. These diseases may be spread by contact between broken skin or mucous membranes and infected:

Blood Saliva (not for HIV) Semen and Vaginal fluids

NB There is no evidence that sweat, urine or tears will transmit Hepatitis B or HIV

THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS WILL REDUCE THE RISK OF TRANSMITTING INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

(All open cuts and abrasions must be reported and treated immediately)

PLAYERS

It is every participant's responsibility to maintain strict personal hygiene as this is the best method of controlling the spread of these diseases.

It is strongly recommended that all participants involved in contact sport be vaccinated against HEPATITIS B

All participants with prior evidence of these diseases are strongly advised to obtain confidential advice and clearance from a doctor prior to competition.

TEAM AREAS

It is each school's responsibility that their dressing rooms are clean and tidy. Particular attention should be paid to hand basins, toilets and showers. Adequate soap, paper hand towels, brooms, refuse disposal bins and disinfectants must be available at all times.

The practices of spitting and urinating in team areas must not be permitted

All clothing, equipment and surfaces contaminated by blood must be treated as potentially infectious and treated accordingly

Sharing of towels, face washers and drink containers must not occur

It is strongly recommended that all staff working in contact sport team areas should be vaccinated against HEPATITIS B

In all training areas, open cuts and abrasions must be reported to the coach and treated immediately

REFEREES AND OFFICIALS

It is strongly recommended that those officiating in body contact sports should be vaccinated against HEPATITIS B

Officials must report all open cuts and abrasions to team coaches / managers at the first available opportunity

All contaminated clothing and equipment must be replaced prior to the player being allowed to resume playing

If bleeding should recur, the above procedures must be repeated

If bleeding cannot be controlled, or the wound securely covered, the player must not continue playing.

EDUCATION

There is an obligation upon all relevant sports staff to provide suitable information on the associated risk factors and prevention strategies against these diseases. Additional information may be obtained from doctors or state Health Departments.

The safe handling of contaminated clothing, equipment and surfaces must be brought to the attention of all players and associated staff

Although Hepatitis B vaccination is usually effective in raising immunity to hepatitis B, it provides no protection against other blood-borne diseases such as HIV. Vaccinations must not result in any relaxation of hygiene standards.

