



## PROCEDURE FOR ILLEGAL HAND PASS AND CONTACTING THE PUCK WITH A HIGH STICK



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References: Rule 42(a)(4) & (5), Rule 61(d), Rule 62(d)  
HCOP Officiating Manual pages 4-4 & 4-17

When the puck is gloved ahead, the **referee** should immediately make a hand pass signal. This lets the other officials, players and spectators know that a foul has occurred. The **referee** then washes it out or stops play as required by the rules.

When the puck is struck with a high stick, the **referee** should immediately make a high stick signal and then wash it out or stop play as required by the rules.



Hand Pass Signal

To prevent sending mixed signals during all hand pass and contact-with-a-high-stick situations, linesmen should simply observe the reaction of the referee and refrain from signaling hand pass or high stick while play is in progress. If the referee does not react to a hand pass or contact-with-a-high-stick foul by signaling immediately, linesmen can assume that the referee did not observe the foul and they should stop the play if required by the rules. After stopping play, linesman must report the reason for the stoppage to the referee. Although not a formal procedure, linesmen may wish to perform the hand pass or high stick signal while reporting. In this situation, the technique of signaling while reporting is effective because it enhances communication and helps to “sell” the call.

When a hand pass or contact-with-a-high-stick foul has nearly occurred, some referees immediately perform the wash out signal. This signaling technique communicates that the referee saw the play and has ruled, “no foul”. It is an effective technique because it shows decisiveness, eliminates uncertainty in the minds of the participants and prevents unjustified stoppages by well meaning linesmen.

The Hockey Canada official rule book and the HCOP officiating manual do not describe an official hand pass signal. However, by convention, the IIHF signal is used. The IIHF hand pass signal involves a pushing motion with the open palm of the non-whistle hand.

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