

Excerpts from Hockey's Unwritten Code

The Hockey News (12/7/04)

IN THE DRESSING ROOM

- * Never let your sweater touch the floor
- * Goalies always lead the team out onto the ice.

ON THE ICE

- * Rookies pick up the pucks after practice.
- * During warm-ups, do not fire high hard ones on your goalie. In the words of Red Deer (now Calgary Flames) defenseman Dion Phaneuf, "You're trying to warm up your goalie, not score on him."

DURING THE GAME

- * Do not allow opposing players to poke at your goalie after he has frozen the puck or after the whistle.
- * Ditto if an opposing player deliberately sprays ice shavings in your goalie's face.
- * If a goalie breaks his stick, a defenseman gives him his. If a defenseman breaks his stick, a forward gives him his. (If a forward breaks his stick, he high-tails it to the bench.)
- * Do not hit players below the waist.
- * Do not fake injuries.
- * Do not dive.
- * Do not stare at one of your teammates or repeatedly shake your head after giving up a goal, trying to convince everyone in the building it wasn't your fault.

AFTER THE GAME

- * Do not make a beeline for the stats sheet. Your teammates will notice. They will also notice if you never look at all, and they'll think better of you for it.

AROUND THE RINK

- * If you're on a winning streak, do not change your t-shirt, underwear, driving route to the rink, pre-game meal, etc.