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# **A GAME OF VIOLENCE:** **THREE PERIODS AND A LOT OF BLOOD**

**A GUIDE TO HOCKEY FOR BEGINNERS AND FANS ALIKE - 2ND EDITION**

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# A Note From the Editor



As the chief editor of this particular production, I find it necessary to explain the circumstances of its creation. Without explanation, I fear its numerous faults – a lack of cohesion, run-on diatribes, and questionable content – may fall upon me due to the expectations of my position. I can ensure you, however, that none of these very valid criticisms should be directed at my work and are a result of Mr. Kowalski's lack of cooperation and presumably unsavory lifestyle.

Throughout my time working with Mr. Kowalski, he has avoided numerous attempts made by me and others within the company to contact him via phone, e-mail, social media, and singing telegram – his requested alternate means of contact. We have also made several direct visits to his provided address, where he has claimed to be an identical twin, fraternal twin, and well-acquainted doppelganger, respectively, who would pass on the word as soon as he got home.

On the rare occasion that Mr. Kowalski attended a scheduled meeting with his editing team, for which we had to supply transportation, he was unprepared, unkempt, ill-tempered, and refused to interact with our team's feedback and suggestions until he was provided a complimentary meal. Moreover, he spent most meetings deploying barbs at the physical appearance and cultural tastes of our team's members, myself included, and made numerous interruptions during feedback sessions by chanting "Here we go, Steelers!" and reciting quotes from Steven Segal movies. Never, in my 15 years working as an editor, have I witnessed such bizarre and sophomoric behavior.

Mr. Kowalski even neglected to assist the third-party writer who was brought on to compose the biographical excerpts for the "About the Author" section and publicity purposes, as defined within the contract he established with our company. The author furnished few pertinent details about his background, current undertakings, or any other verifiable information, and insisted that he preferred "to live in the shadows." He advised us, though, that this quote was acceptable to include within the description.

Accordingly, it is important for you, the reader, to understand that the information contained within the "About the Author" section of this publication is based largely on the unlikely tales and boasts claimed by Mr. Kowalski, vetted by the contact he provided who, despite sounding like Mr. Kowalski in phone conversations, alleged to be his close cousin. The remainder of the content in this section has been pieced together by interviews with the family and seedy associates of the author, and by connecting the dots within reasonable boundaries of editorial license.

In fact, the lengths to which this company has gone in order to see this work through to its completion have nearly led us to abandon the project altogether multiple times. However, all of Mr. Kowalski's checks have cleared to this point, and so here we are.

With this last fact in mind, it is with extreme reluctance, but professional obligation, that I welcome you to *A Game of Violence: Three Periods and a Lot of Blood – a Guide to Hockey for Beginners and Fans Alike*, though I warn you to tread carefully through its content as a hypervigilant reader should.

Also: should Mr. Kowalski or one of his associates be reading this note, please have him issue our company another check for the most recent installment in his payment plan; we refuse to deposit one with "Getting down and dirty with Chuck K." written as the memo.

Regards,

Editor-in-Chief,

# About the Author



Charles 'Chuck' Kowalski, who has stated to be also known as, 'Chuck K,' 'Kado,' 'The Polish Hammer' and 'Carlos Gaucho Rodriguez,' currently calls Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania his home. He is assumed to do his work from

his one-bedroom apartment that features a fort he made out of delivery pizza boxes and his favorite view of "inexplicable gridlock traffic at 2 p.m."

Kowalski cherishes his private life, as evidenced by his preference to "live in the shadows," so little is known about his day-to-day activities. However, conversations with friends and relatives have illuminated some of the personal history that led to his passion for hockey and the subsequent authoring of this book.

Kowalski is a second-generation child of Polish immigrants who left Europe during World War II after an epic defense of their family pierogi shop from Nazi invaders had failed. Family anecdotes say they ran out of potatoes to "chuck" at the enemy infantry, hence the name Charles – a veiled nod to the battles of his forefathers.

The family kept to itself, living quietly in a rural part of Pennsylvania with little interest in the outside world. It wasn't until Kowalski began attending elementary school that the family purchased a television, one of its first commodities. Relatives still refer to the television favorably as their "geriatric dwarf," after an unfavorable description of its age and size provided by the salesman. The author was the first of the family to speak fluent English.

Despite its limitations, Kowalski's father was able to fashion a signal aid for the antique television out of tin foil and wooden spoons – a move that gained the family access to three channels. Two of the channels reran local access shows or relied on syndication of cultural staples that the family had no interest in. The strange elements at work did manage to open up a station that broadcast one sport, though, and that sport was hockey.

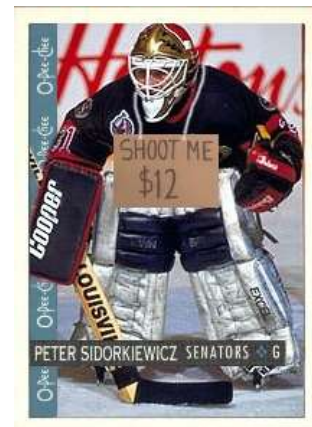
Kowalski and his family were quickly taken by the sport, as it required no understanding of its dialogue or

knowledge of prior events. Each game was, in their eyes, an unfolding episode packed with intrigue, palpable anguish and contempt, and a litany of characters whom, as the author has stated, his family addressed with hyperbolized references to their attire and appearance rather than memorizing their names.

In fact, several years passed until the family found a player with whom it could readily identify: a Polish goaltender named Peter Sidorkiewicz. Statistics indicate, along with the author's propensity for referring to him with pejorative terms, that he was a below average player. It was due to this experience that Kowalski, feeding on his blossoming obsession with the sport, pledged to become a Polish hockey player and break the mold of mediocrity.

Unfortunately, a steady diet of potato pancakes and "battered everything," evidently a culinary legacy of the Kowalski family, restricted him from the proper fitness and skills to play hockey professionally. The author thus altered his course to be a great writer on the sport instead.

Now, Kowalski keeps a sports blog between shifts at the family grocer located in Pittsburgh's Strip District as he continues his quest to shed light on the game he loves, but isn't very good at playing.



This card of Sidorkiewicz hangs from the author's mirror to provide a daily reminder of his dream.



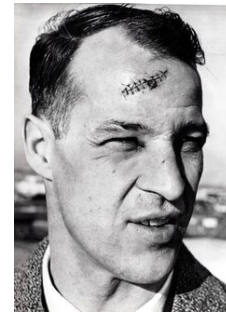
# INTRODUCTION

# Am I Right for Hockey?

“All hockey players are fluent in two languages. They know English and profanity.”  
-Gordie Howe

The question seems backwards, but I assure you it's not. Hockey's elite fandom of non-elite people is a crowd that one is selected to join, not of their own volition.

If you're reading this book, it may be your first purposeful encounter with hockey. If you're an established fan of hockey, it may be your first attempt at reading. Your background notwithstanding, the statements following this explanation will help you determine whether you are right for the sport, assuming you're not already crushing your reading device into the pavement.



Don't worry: you may get by on just profanity.

## The "Am I Right for Hockey?" Self-Test

This brief questionnaire acts as a personal diagnostic to determine whether hockey is a sport you should pursue as a fan; it has been revised and approved by the book's editorial team to ensure the utmost accuracy\*. Answer the questions as best you can – it's easier to erase pencil than pesky crayon or blood stains – and then tally up your points to see how well you match up.

- (1) The thought of more reading has caused you to groan just now.  
yes [ ] no [ ]
- (2) As a fan of innovation, you prefer the radical design of games broken up into three playing intervals, not the tired, predictable two or four.  
yes [ ] no [ ]
- (3) You enjoy social interaction and making conversation about topics where somebody else knows what the hell you're talking about.  
yes [ ] no [ ]
- (4) You find head trauma arousing.  
yes [ ] no [ ]
- (5) You've considered punching this quiz in the face several times.  
already punching [ ] yes [ ] no [ ]
- (6) You like being emotionally stable and not losing the handle because a professional athlete was unable to fulfill your shattered dreams.  
yes [ ] no [ ]
- (7) You are from Canada.  
yes [ ] no [ ] give me a minute to check [ ]
- (8) Beards are a close second to head trauma.  
yes [ ] no [ ] no, I prefer them more [ ]

### Scorecard

- (1) yes: 2; no: 0      (2) yes: 1; no: 0      (3) yes: -2; no: 2      (4) yes: 3; no: -2  
(5) already: 6 yes: 3; no: 0      (6) yes: -1; no: 2      (7) yes: 10; no: -1; give...: 3      (1) yes: 2; no: 0; no, I...: 2

### Results

- ≤ 7: yeah, well, I don't like you, either  
8-14: try starting a scrum with some strangers  
15-21: you have an impressive circle of imaginary friends  
22-28: you likely share DNA with vulcanized rubber

\*It most certainly has not, in both cases. Mr. Kowalski pitched the idea for a self-test that was quickly rejected due to the difficulty in verifying its results. He chose to add it despite these objections and ignored further complaints by feigning a number of ailments that he claimed caused temporary deafness. – Editor



# What Is Hockey?

“I went to a fight the other night, and a hockey game broke out.”  
-Rodney Dangerfield

## Monitored by NATO

Modern hockey is an active crime scene with planned bathroom breaks and a Jumbotron, which typically takes place on a flat ice surface. It has more primitive roots at heart, though.

That is, before hockey strived to reverse the course of evolution, it was a simple game, in which two competing teams attempted to score goals (i.e., accumulate points) by using a provided appendage to force the sport's prized object into the desired opening – a concept that has sustained life on Earth up to this point and remains the primary objective of party animals, barflies, college students, social deviants, disgruntled married couples, and mostly anyone outside of eunuchs and children.

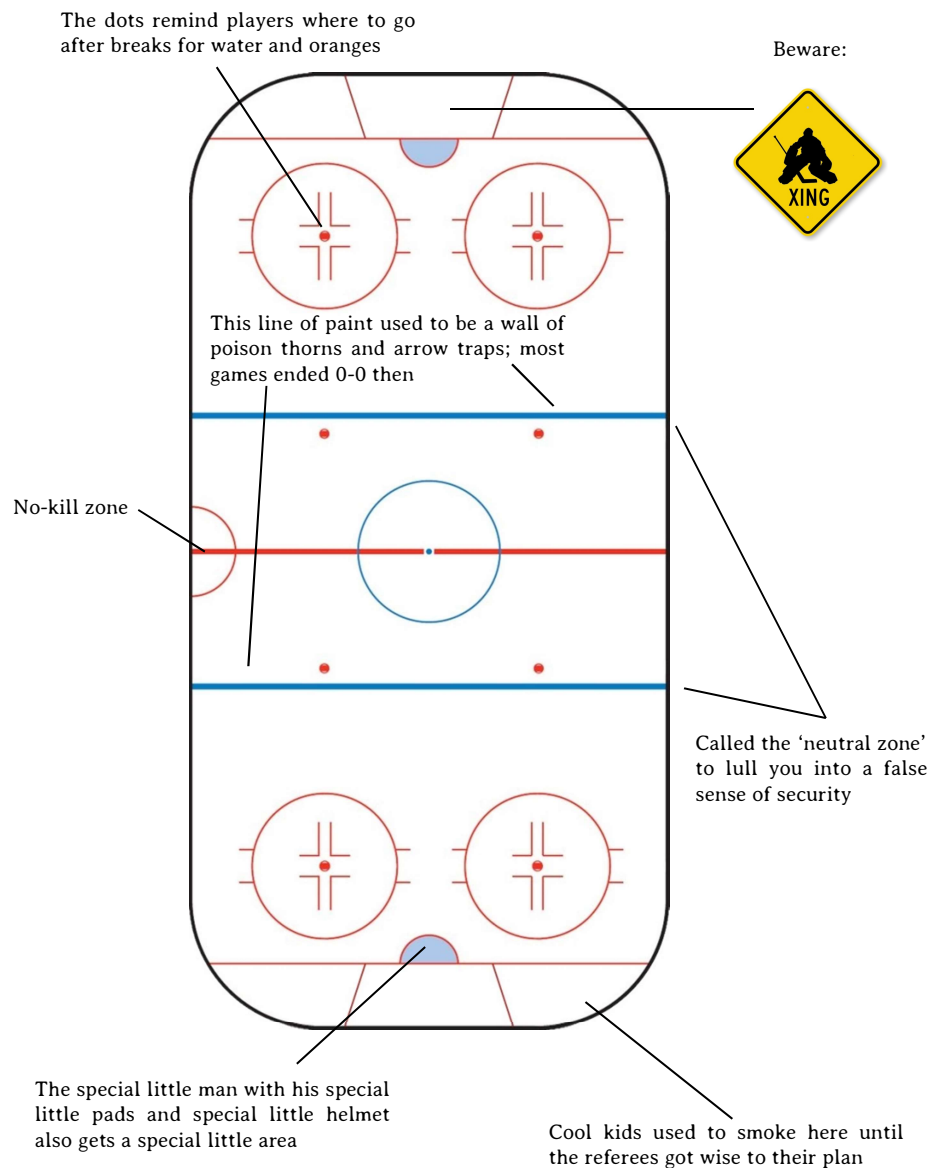
Its role as a casual competition has changed dramatically over the years, however. Nowadays, experience playing hockey can be redeemed as years of military service in most nation-states, while Canadian high school graduates must choose between a year of hockey or living among wolves in the country's dense woodlands in order to avoid bringing shame to their family.



A wall in the bedroom of the Martin family. Their son Russell, lower left, is a professional baseball player; his cousin Dennis, center, played two years of beer league hockey.

## The Playing Surface

Hockey games are commonly held on a pre-made, 85' x 200' sheet of ice, including a number of lines and markers to direct players who don't know where they are after suffering their most recent head injury. International competitions and leagues widen the playing surface to 100' to meet occupational health and safety measures.



# How Is Hockey Played?

*A Game of Violence* “is the greatest book I’ve ever read.”\*

-Editor

## Equal Opportunity Destruction

“We hold these truths to be self-evident that all concussions are created equal.”

A number of sports, such as hockey, are connected under that same basic pretext of intercourse reinterpreted. Before the internet and human rights rolled around, there wasn't much else to do.

To expound upon hockey's take: in a typical stretch of play, six players – five skaters and one goaltender – from two teams carve swaths atop a thick layer of ice; the surface stings inexperienced eyes with its artificial white glow. The two sides carry on at a furious pace, constantly calling back tired bodies and deploying the refreshed ones, as they chase and rocket the 'puck' about, all in order to land it into the 'net.' This scene continues until play is stopped, for a number of reasons you will learn later, or the game reaches one of two 18-minute arranged reprieves from the madness. It's an exhausting display that is to last over the course of three 20-minute periods, and it's worthy of a bow for applause at its end.

To adhere to the motif of copulation, it's crucial to remember that it has two sides: romance and reality. What has been described to you is the romance of hockey, in its brief but intoxicating details.

The reality is, hockey consists of six players a side, with half as many teeth between them, who crash, slash, shove, punch, spit, and curse for about 8-10 minutes a game, and they'll be happy if they've been able to scalp an opponent while needing fewer than a dozen stitches. This image is hockey's reality, and both beginners and fans must be aware of the way the sport dances – or fist-fights – between these two scenes.

## The Right Parts for the Job

Hockey is one of the more burdensome sports when it comes to getting started, even when you just want to go out and get a good skate in while starting fights with strangers. Specific player equipment will be explored in more detail later in the book. For now, though, here are some things you will need to join the fray.



### Players

If you don't have friends, lure others by telling them there's a good chance they'll get to injure you.



### Hockey puck

Typically a vulcanized rubber disc, but feel free to use a rock, beer bottle, or anything else that hurts.



### Hockey net (goal)

Discussion of the net is a great opportunity to instigate opponents with allusions to their mother's vagina.



### Ice skates

When falling over, be sure to protect yourself by kicking blindly with the blades in every direction.



### Ice surface

If no ice is available, a gym with a negligent damages policy works perfectly with your skates.



### Hockey stick

Its design for handling a puck also makes it ideal for brutal strikes to the body and crafty hooks to the legs.

## Common Questions #1

### How do I stop on skates?

Start by colliding into the boards at full speed. The ensuing dizziness will counteract the anxiety you have in the process of learning.

### Should I watch anyone particular?

A young Rob Lowe in *Youngblood*. Seeing him sweep effortlessly back and forth across the ice – it's... it's simply ravishing.



Hockey (romance)



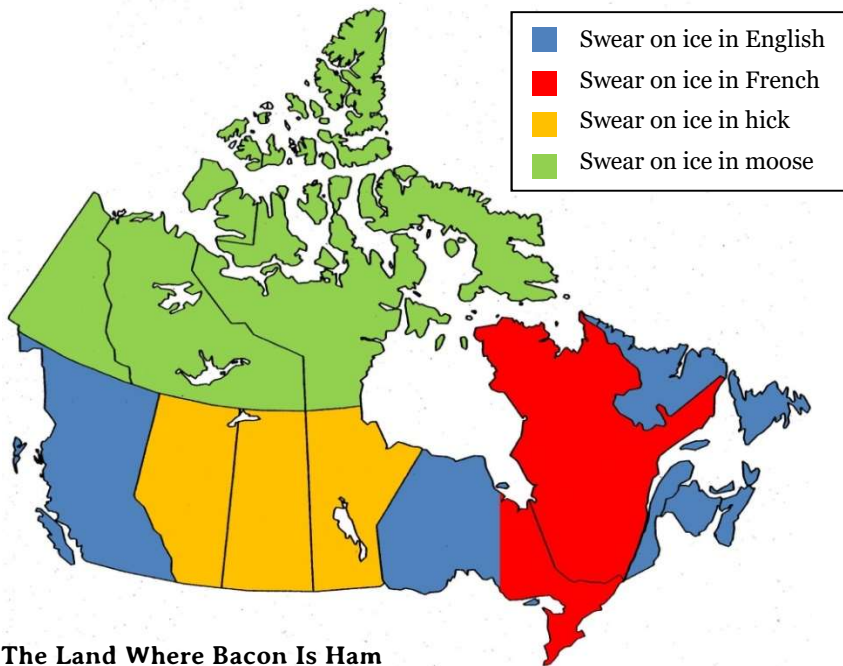
Also hockey (reality)

\*Never have I said or so much as suggested this statement. The quote that Mr. Kowalski is manipulating here was an attempt to get clarification on a question he had asked in a purposefully incomprehensible manner, as I later discovered. – Editor



# Where Is Hockey Played? (North America)

“Think of your children pledging allegiance to the maple leaf. Mayonnaise on everything. Winter 11 months of the year. Anne Murray - all day, every day.” -Edwin S. Simon in *Canadian Bacon*



## Canada

In Canada it's a first-degree misdemeanor not to like hockey, though there has been a push throughout the country for progressive reform; they hope to have it charged as a felony by early next year.

Ice pervades the landscape, along with every other facet of life, including fashion, diet, and economics, making it ideal for playing hockey outdoors, at home, at the mall, in jail, or on the highway.

Physicians in Canada prescribe hockey for the majority of diagnoses; to be fair, they spend years in medical school examining permafrost and moose.



Studies have shown that Canadian hockey players share close to 96% of their DNA with the Yukon Moose.

## The Land Where Bacon Is Ham

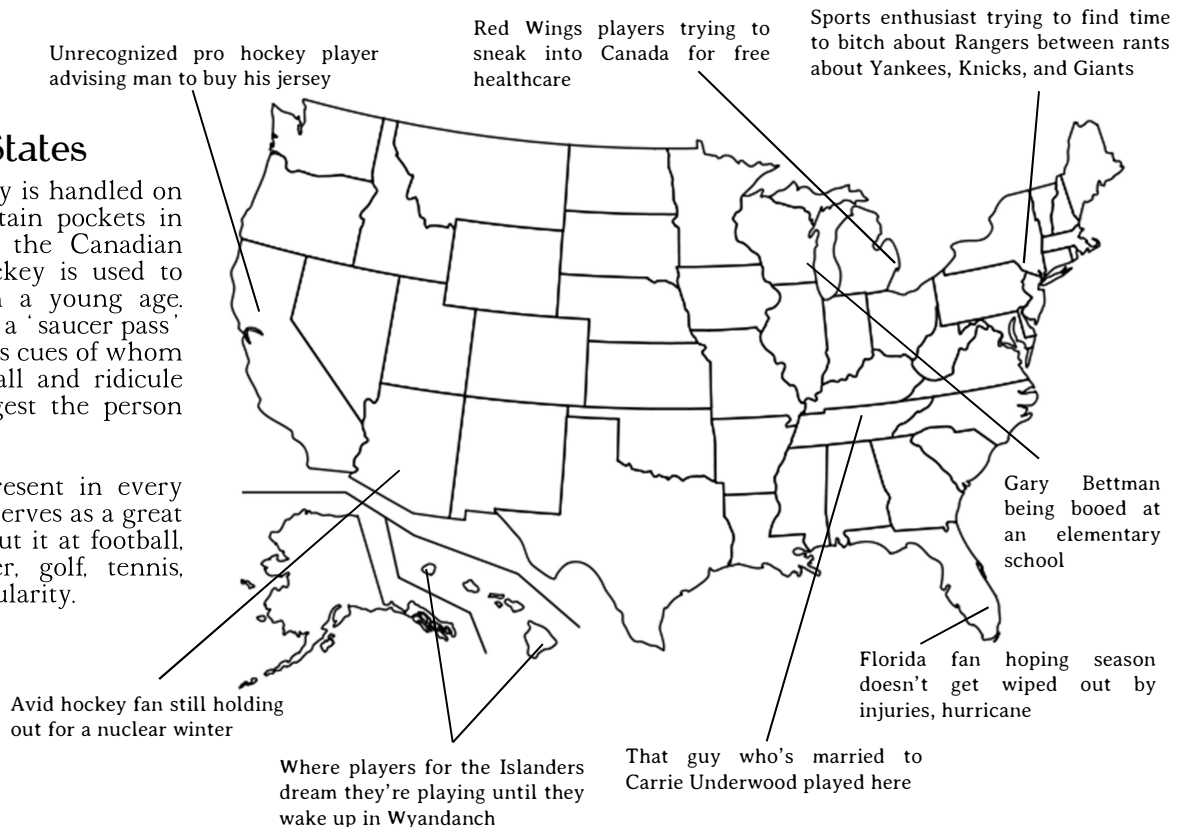
<u>Hockey Players</u>	<u>Population</u>
36,149,999	36,150,000
<u>Leading Cause of Death</u>	
Beer league playoffs	

<u>What's That One Guy Doing</u>
Incarcerated for watching NFL
<u>Largest Military Deployment</u>
Canadiens vs. Nordiques, 1984

## The United States

In the United States, hockey is handled on a social level. Outside certain pockets in New England and along the Canadian border, an interest in hockey is used to create social divides from a young age. Bullies rely on mentions of a 'saucer pass' and 'cross-corner dump' as cues of whom to destroy with a dodgeball and ridicule with comments that suggest the person regularly performs fellatio.

That said, the sport is present in every region of the country and serves as a great alternative if a kid can't cut it at football, baseball, basketball, soccer, golf, tennis, swimming, reading, or popularity.



# Where Is Hockey Played? (The Other Americas)

“Israel routs North Korea at ice hockey tournament in Mexico”  
-an actual headline, not a misplayed mad lib



## Mexico

“Hey, wait, isn’t that in North America, too?”

Look at you, knowing geography and stuff. You should be very proud. Mexico has been relegated to this page because the sport lost any traction it may have gained after it was discovered that hockey players do not make good coke mules. Nevertheless, the country has a national hockey team that competes in the same international division as perennial hockey powerhouses Israel, Turkey, China, New Zealand, and North Korea.



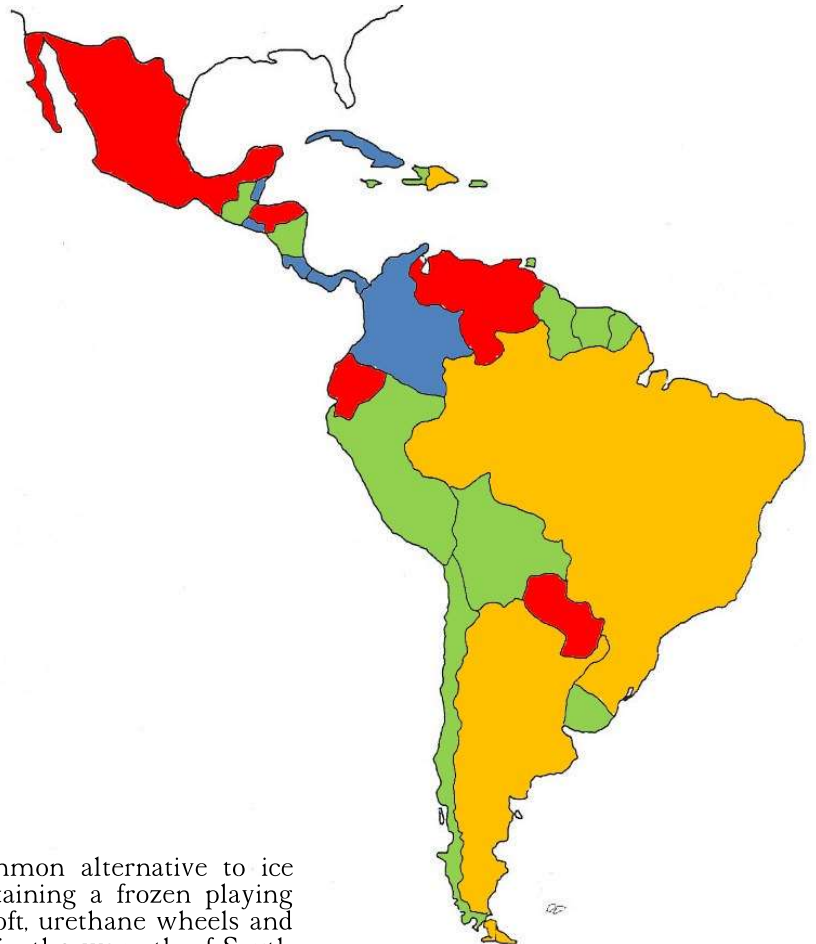
A Mexico national team coach covers critical points with the players, including that the stick should be held so the toe of the blade points inward and to – please, dear God – stop trying to kick the puck.

## Central and South America

Few countries in these parts have professional or even amateur ice hockey; Brazil, Argentina, and Columbia are the only countries with an international squad.

Several years ago, these teams began to play one another in the Pan American Ice Hockey Tournament, an annual competition usually won by the team whose players are least malnourished and have the fewest concerns regarding their country’s collapsing infrastructure and the possibility of their family having died in the latest coup d’etat.

Will Play Hockey...	
■	for some food
■	for the air conditioning
■	for the company
■	if skates are replaced with shoes, the puck with a ball 22cm in diameter, and the ice with a 110m-long grass field



## Inline Hockey

Helping fill empty space since now.

Throughout South America, inline hockey is a common alternative to ice hockey due to the costs and impracticality of maintaining a frozen playing surface in such a climate. By equipping skates with soft, urethane wheels and playing on a hard, tiled deck, even kids growing up in the warmth of South America can regret their sport of choice.



# Where Is Hockey Played? (Europe)

“I am score.”

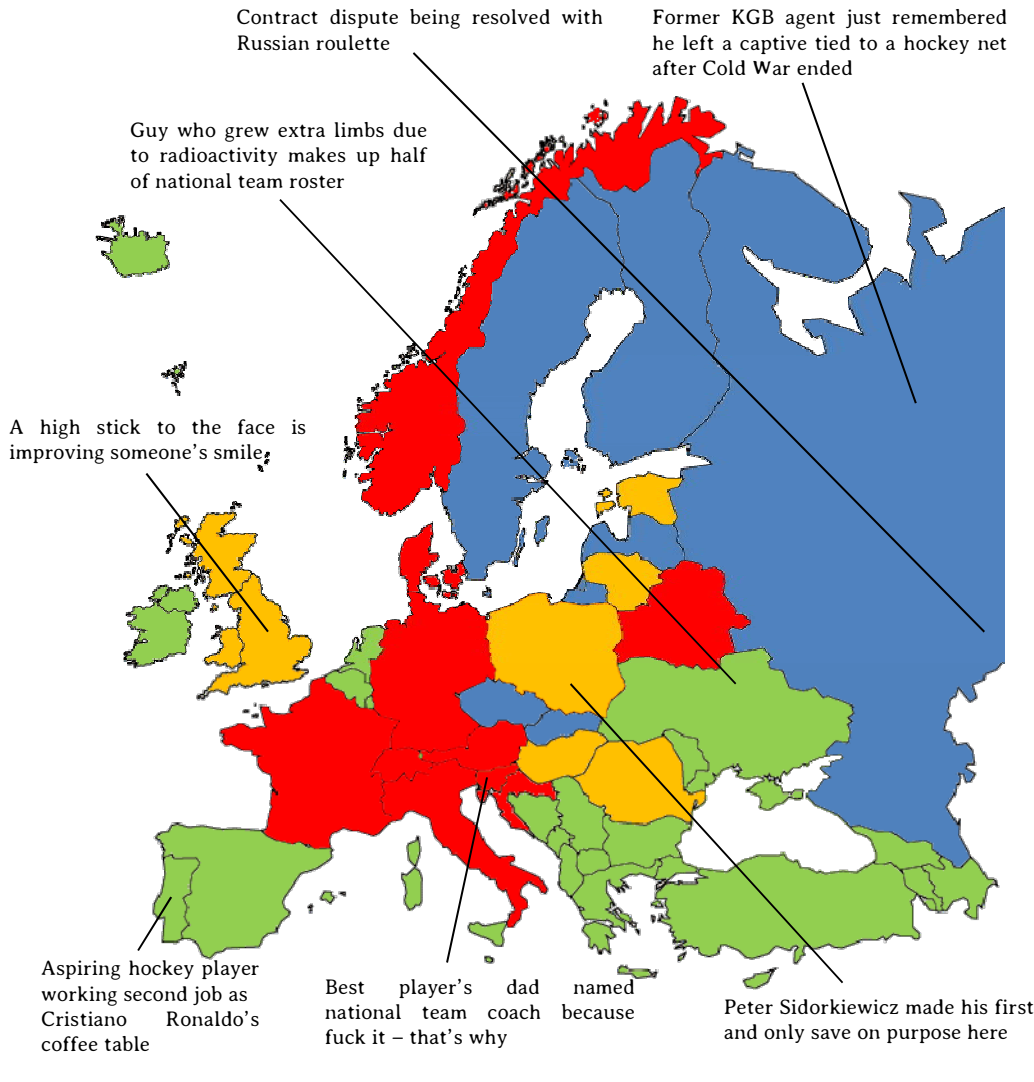
-Evgeni Malkin, Russian forward and existential philosopher

## Europe

The continent is hockey’s pocket of inequality, home to several nations that excel at the sport and countless others where a puck is more likely to be used as a serving dish.

As a whole, Europe hosts the greatest range of hockey proficiency among its countries: a handful rank within the top 10 internationally, while several others shit themselves at the sight of ice, and countless more are still learning how to fill out the form correctly to register their country with the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF).

This diversity is also visible in the cultural roles hockey fulfills for each country. In Nordic lands like Norway, Finland, and Sweden, hockey is a common, pleasant athletic event to learn, play, and watch – a cherished piece of the countries’ cultural fabric. Meanwhile, in many former Soviet bloc countries, hockey is a means of existential affirmation: you will become talented enough to play professionally and move somewhere else or at least there’s a good chance you will die in the process.



Let’s Not Make It Harder Than We Have To, OK?

- Good at hockey
- Alright at hockey
- Bad at hockey
- Mistake puck for food

## In Focus: Countries of Interest in European Hockey

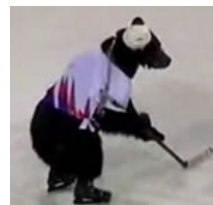
### Russia

**International Rank (2016):** 2

**Best players:** Vladislav Tretiak (USSR), Valeri Kharlamov (USSR), Alex Ovechkin (NHL), Igor the hockey bear (unsigned)

**Strengths:** incredible technical skill; that sexy accent

**Weaknesses:** taxes; hookers; defense



Igor the hockey bear led the Kontinental Hockey League (KHL) in points in 2015. Despite such a stellar showing, he remains unsigned because no team could match his contract demands of a ton of wild salmon and several months off with pay to hibernate.

### Sweden

**International Rank (2016):** 5

**Best players:** Peter Forsberg (NHL), Nicklas Lidström (NHL), Mats Sundin (NHL), Henrik and Daniel Sedin (NHL)

**Strengths:** team play; homogenous, affluent population

**Weaknesses:** all their equipment ‘assembly required’

### Ireland

**International Rank (2016):** 38

**Best players:** Owen Nolan (NHL), Patrick Kelly (beer league), Sean Murphy (beer league), Conor O’Sullivan (beer league)

**Strengths:** Owen Nolan; can still stand on skates after some pints

**Weaknesses:** Owen Nolan’s retirement; all the parts of hockey that don’t involve fighting

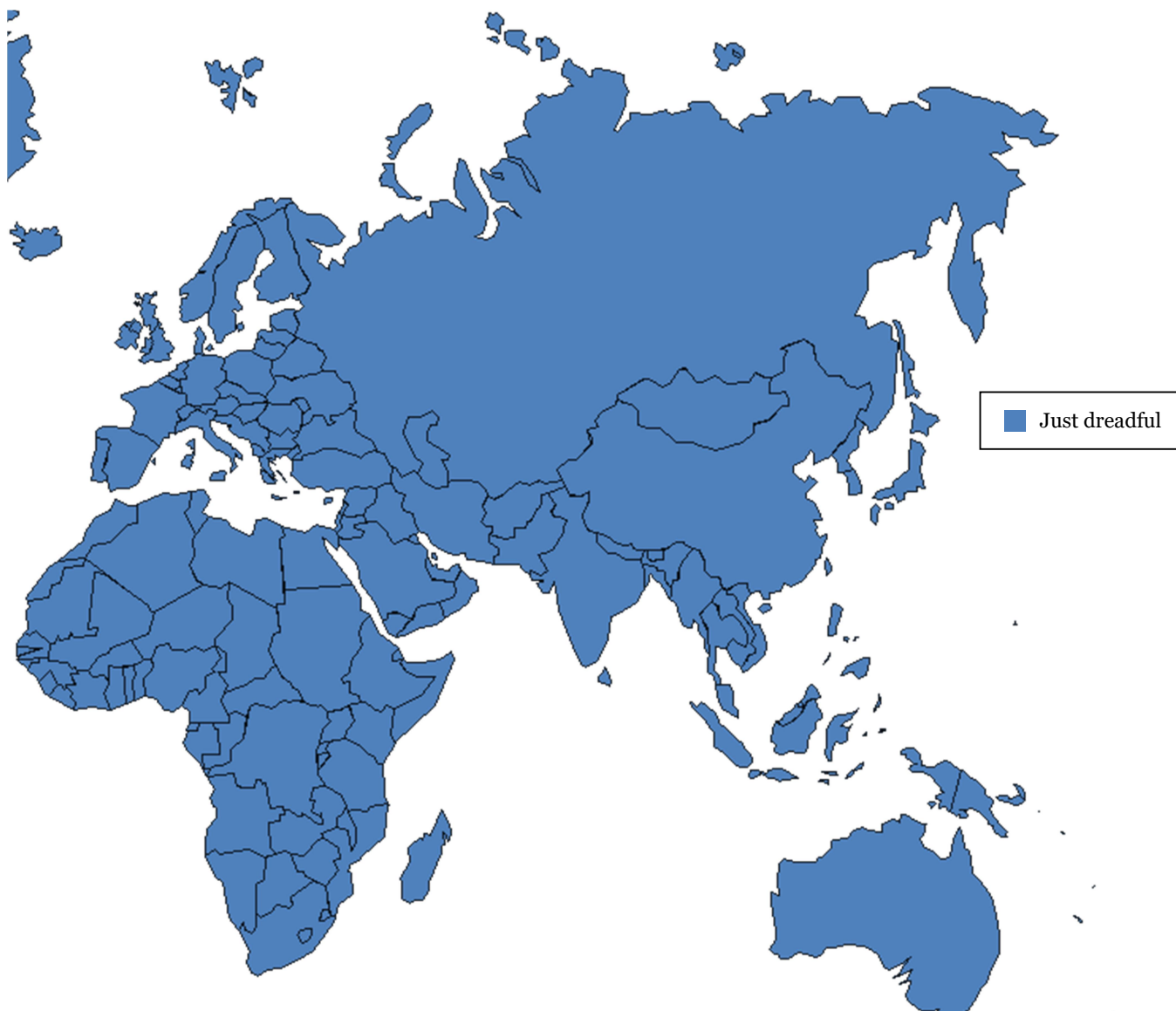
# Where Is Hockey Played? (Elsewhere)

“Hockey in Asia: gets better every year!”  
-Slogan for ‘Hockey in Asia’ website

## Africa, Asia, and Oceania

Yeah, this section has about run its course.

This page is already a lie: hockey isn't so much played in these parts, it's experimented. Very few countries have made it into the international rankings and the ones who have only done so thanks to a filing error. Listen, there are pages upon pages left in this book that are packed with valuable information, and you want to sit here and learn about hockey in the goddamn Phillipines?!



## Common Questions #2 – Goalie Edition

Why do goalies paint their helmets?

Goalie helmets are detailed with familiar symbols and imagery, so they have an easier time remembering who they are after getting struck in the head with a puck.

What kind of superstitions do goalies have?

There is a variety of pre-, mid-, and post-game rituals among goalies. Some put on their equipment in a very specific order, some tap the posts for good luck, some butcher an unassuming couple before heading to the arena – it runs the gamut.

# How Can I Watch Hockey?

“I like ice hockey, but it’s a frustrating game to watch...There are usually more fights than there are points.”  
-Andy Rooney

## In Canada

When it comes to watching hockey, Canada is a land of many possibilities.



Once in Canadian territory, hockey can be watched simply by opening one’s eyes and looking in any direction. Hockey’s immense popularity has resulted in almost every minute of air time being dedicated to professional coverage and related programming. At any moment, a viewer can find several broadcasts of professional hockey, minor-league hockey, junior hockey, college hockey, international hockey, midjet hockey, hockey highlights, hockey biographies, hockey commercials, hockey sitcoms, hockey movies, and late-night hockey infomercials.

Currently, major league programming is divided among four channels: Bell Media and TSN (English) – or RDS (French) – handle regional coverage and day-to-day events in sports (read: hockey); CBC Sports shows games during national broadcasting times; and Rogers Sportsnet holds the rights to full national coverage of major league hockey, having struck a deal worth more than \$5 billion for the 2014-2015 season onward, while also providing regional support to some of the country’s teams.

There is, of course, coverage of other sports available to viewers. Networks cover regional professional baseball games (Toronto), UFC fights, Canadian Football League games, and yes, even some National Football League highlights for those weirdos who don’t want to watch hockey.



## In the United States

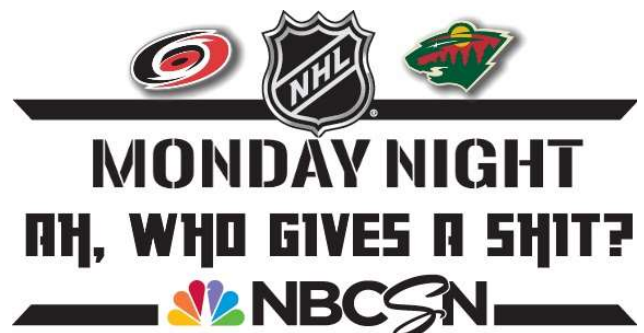
When it comes to watching hockey, the United States is a land of possibilities – two, to be exact.



Americans also have outlets for hockey coverage, but the scope of national broadcasting is limited by comparison, particularly if competing against another highly-anticipated sporting event, such as the PBA championships, or the Division 3 college football playoffs.

Most ancillary programming and day-to-day coverage is provided by the NHL Network. This channel is only available, however, by subscribing to your local cable company’s “Mega Deluxe Sports and Whole Bunch of Other Shit” package or its closest equivalent. Of course, you can also order an ‘NHL TV’ subscription to access almost every game of the season – an ideal means to free up your social calendar and get people who know you to smile uncomfortably and nod politely.

NBC Sports Network provides regular national coverage, having evolved from the NHL’s former television home, Outdoor Life Network (OLN), where hockey was given a prime spot between bass fishing and quail hunting. The network has made attempts to attract more viewers by designing national broadcast events that cater to their thirst for violence (Rivalry Wednesday) and general indifference (Ah, Who Gives a Shit Monday).



## Alternate Means of Watching Hockey

### Show Up to Youth Games

The controlled pace can help a beginner pick up the game more easily. Don’t miss the chance to sneak over to the benches and get some pointers from the coaches and kids, either.



### Garden Hose the Sidewalks

Get some good wholesome fun out of spraying your neighbor’s sidewalk on a cold day and watching the ensuing mayhem. Augment the experience by quietly providing your own live commentary.



# HISTORY



# Hockey History (Early)

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“History is a set of lies agreed upon.”  
-a witty Frenchman

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## Turning Over a New Leaf

This saying may be perceived as a metaphor for the founding of hockey – a sport that the world has come to, uh, be generally aware of. However, the phrase is actually in reference to this entry’s complete absence of quips, jabs, jokes, pokes, and teases aimed at the country of Canada. May the Great White North rejoice with a frothy lager and fries with gravy.

Such magnanimity is with good reason. The antiquated signs and records of the play and competition that developed into hockey have no direct ties to Canada. Instead, you have to reach further back into history and travel elsewhere around the world to examine the sport’s early proceedings. There are three peoples in particular who bear a major stake in the product as it came to be today.



### The English

English history and documents have the most obvious and verified connections to the conception of modern hockey for two reasons.

The most sporting of which is **bandy** or **bandie (ball)**, also called hockey prior to the 1800s, in which players carried sticks to usher a ‘bung’ (a cork used for barrels) down an area of ice to the end of the opponent’s territory.

Nobody has questioned its authenticity: for one, due to overwhelming literary evidence, but also because nobody of a sound mind would dare fabricate the details so conspicuously as to name the game’s primary object a ‘bung.’

The other English influence in the establishment of modern hockey was its unique brand of imperialism. It was this expansionist agenda that brought the game to North America, and all it took were some centuries of abuses, warfare, and manipulation that still divide parts of the world today.

#### Greatest Contributions

- (1) Endless wordplay with the word ‘puck,’ because at least it wasn’t as awful as ‘bung.’
- (2) Bandy being the most significant precursor to hockey, kind of clarifies why the British have never cared much for dentistry.



### The Irish

While the Irish cannot count the use of an iced surface among their merits, their own game, **hurling**, demands attention, if only because various relics and literature indicate that it has been played for more than 3000 years.

Hurling is another ball and stick game, in which two teams of 15 players are playing at one time.

There is no protective padding, but in consideration that the ball can be propelled rapidly through the air, the sport’s national governing body was sure to mandate players to wear a thin plastic helmet – in 2010. The safety meeting leading to this change was the league’s first and only such event, lasting approximately three millenia; they have yet to schedule another.

Despite these ominous conditions, the sport follows a simple, explicit rule system that is in fact administered in the games – a concept that hockey experts are said to be still translating from the original Gaelic.

#### Greatest Contributions

- (1) Remember that hurling final between Tipperary and Kilkenny?! To hell with hockey, that was just good theater.
- (2) The precedent for a governing body that passes vital rule changes several millennia too late.



### The Norsemen

The Vikings’ nature alone suffices to certify their place in this section. Watching the carnage inherent in a modern hockey game summons images of the behemoth warriors, for which the Vikings were renowned.

Moreover, cultural evidence suggests that the Norsemen, who held an unwavering belief in fate and interference from the gods, laughed in the face of danger and their own mortality – not unlike a defenseman who goes blindly into a corner to secure the puck or a forward who storms the net as a one-man battering ram.

The Vikings also played a sport called **Knattleikr**, literally “ball game,” that has been mentioned in the people’s famed sagas. Unfortunately, no record exists on the game’s specifics except for one key point consistent in Icelandic literature: the game was waged, rather than played, and regularly led to bloodshed.

#### Greatest Contributions

- (1) Knattleikr games lasted days, surely an influence on hockey’s agonizing season and playoff structure.
- (2) The Norse god Loki – the original instigator and pest. May be a blood relative of Claude Lemieux.

# Hockey History (Approaching Modern)

“Shins and heads were battered, benches smashed, and the lady spectators fled in confusion.”  
-Daily British Whig, March 4, 1875

## A Sadist Beyond His Years



James G. A. Creighton, the patriarch of organized indoor hockey and such a twisted son of a bitch he needed two middle names.

Throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the seeds of modern hockey made their way to western shores thanks to British ideals and their virtuous ability to destroy indigenous populations with foreign disease.

As the years passed, hockey forged its identity; in so many words, it was bandy played with a ball on ice. But it still lagged on the periphery of western sports culture: it was restricted to outdoor playing areas due to the volatile bounce of the ball; it faced competition from hurling, lacrosse, and other popular sports that didn't require ice; and it had yet to be developed into a fully organized sport, until one crazy bastard came along and altered hockey's history forever.

That man was James G. A. Creighton, an engineer from Nova Scotia with a wild streak. He moved to Montreal in 1872 and began to study law several years later, to help get his buddy 'Neck Breaker' out of a tough bind.

University friends called him JGA – research supports the claim that it stood for “just getting ass,” pointing to his proficiency in fraternizing – but he earned several other nicknames, including, “T-Square,” “Pain Bringer,” or simply, “The Darkness” for his reputation of blinding opponents with his stick blade.

The appeal of spontaneous knife fights and barroom brawls began to fade for Creighton, so he decided to round up a platoon of local students, train them for a month, and muscle into a local rink. Having invited the public and press to observe, he initiated his campaign to unleash a sport he knew wielded a latent taste of danger; it was there that he blazed the path for modern ice hockey.

## The O.G. of Hockey Games

On March 3, 1875, “a very large audience” gathered at the Victoria Skating Rink in Montreal and beheld a spectacle that now resonates throughout history.

Creighton gathered his cronies down on the ice surface – the crucial catch: today's game was to be played within the rink's walls. Including him, there were nine players a side, all of whom were attired with Nova Scotia's finest hockey equipment: fresh wooden sticks and skates made with clips that attached a rounded blade to a special boot.

He was aware of the reservations over playing with a ball, that it may stray into the crowd or damage the surrounding glass – fears he allayed with a clever substitute. Creighton replaced the ball with a flat wooden disc he modeled after the sleekness of some ninja throwing stars, acquired during his adventures in the East when he had to duck the Royal Guard for a couple years. Yet again, he struck a course for hockey to follow.

Creighton was reputed among members of his social circle for running a tight operation. As he contended, it was standard policy “to keep the bigwigs off [his] ass.” This strict approach applied no less to the hockey game. Referees, goaltenders, arguably the sport's first puck, established rules – all to be maintained over 60 minutes of organized hockey. It was the first of its kind and secured The Darkness's place in history.

The local paper, The Montreal Gazette, included a write-up of the game the following day:

“HOCKEY -- At the Rink last night a very large audience gathered to witness a novel contest on the ice... Hockey is played usually with a ball, but last night, in order that no accident should happen, a flat block of wood was used ... The match was an interesting and well-contested affair, the efforts of the players exciting much merriment as they wheeled and dodged each other... Captain Creighton's men carried the day, winning two [goals] to the single of the Torrance nine. The spectators then adjourned well satisfied with the evening's entertainment.”

Omitted by the Gazette was the moment that, in retrospect, underscored the success of Creighton's endeavor and its long-reaching impact on hockey. That's right – there was a fight.

This fight was unlike the pugilism of the modern game, though. No, the players fought a select group of spectators: an angry gang of Skating Club members and others who feared a hockey exhibition may do harm to the ice quality. As another paper, Daily British Whig, reported, “Shins and heads were battered, benches smashed, and the [ladies] fled in confusion.”

An esoteric piece of historical evidence could prove that there was an earlier show of hockey indoors, but these elements – the equipment, the venue, the melee – demonstrate beyond a shadow of a doubt that this event was truly hockey's first game.



Game Overview		
<u>Players</u> 18	<u>Goals</u> 3	<u>Massive Brawls</u> 1
<u>Clearly</u> Much hasn't changed	<u>Charges Filed?</u> Oh, you bet	<u>Minority Players</u> Learn history, dipshit
<u>Longest Stoppage of Play</u> When the puck got stuck in a narrow slit between the boards and ice		

# A Letter from the Commissioner

Guest entry by Gary Bettman, Commissioner of the National Hockey League\*



Hello reader,

My name is Gary Bettman and I'm the commissioner of the very popular, *highly* prosperous, and virtually controversy-free National Hockey League. You may have seen me, some of my colleagues, and good hockey friends – just ask them! – briefly between basketball highlights and high school softball coverage on the ESPN – yes, the very same you're thinking of!

Before I go on, let me express my pleasure in your attention to hockey – a sport of international renown that's sure to make you the life of the party. To maximize what you can learn from this book, it's best to acquire some NHL-licensed merchandise from our online store. Enter the code 'book' upon checkout for free shipping!

Now that you know to be properly dressed for the occasion, let's talk hockey. Throughout this book, you are sure to read a wealth of information about the sport's beginnings, rules, players, and so on. Now, I want it to be known: I am a very humble man, especially considering my position – did I mention I am the *Commissioner* of the National Hockey League and that the title for my job was formerly called "*President*"? – and as a man of such a virtue, I stick to the facts – perhaps most importantly, the league I run, the National Hockey League, is the biggest, longest-running professional hockey organization in the *world*. We've been around for almost 100 years!

To complement such an incredible feat, there have only been three lockouts throughout the entirety of the league's existence, demonstrating how committed we are to creating an equitable work environment for our players that is accessible to fans all around the globe. (*These lockouts occurred in 1994, 2004, and 2012, all during Bettman's tenure as commissioner, having taken the position in 1993. – Editor*)

So it should be no surprise that most of the information you will see going forward is based on what has happened and is happening in the National Hockey League. Sure, you might come across some points about international hockey or other leagues, but you can gloss over it because when it comes to number one, you know who it is!

Now that we're friends, let's take one last look at the great stuff you can get at our online shop. Enter the code 'friends' at checkout and get 15% off!



A pro-quality jersey with the league logo embroidered on it will let everyone know you have good taste!



This Stanley Cup-shaped Bluetooth speaker is a great way to accessorize and burn some extra cash!



Need a bed buddy? Bring Bettman! This nifty throw pillow will keep your good friend always by your side!

*This addition is its own peculiar affair. Mr. Kowalski, or his doppelganger, informed the editing team that he had solicited an entry from an invaluable source, though he did not divulge the writer's name. Later, I received an email with the message printed here. At first, the sender's address, garythegreat93@gmail.com, made the message appear fraudulent. However, after extensive research noting the widespread dysfunction of the league Bettman operates, we grant it may be legitimate. — Editor*

# Hockey History (Modern, #1)

## Handing Literacy a One-Game Suspension

In response to the violent barrage of information regarding the precipitants of organized hockey, the Reader Safety Committee has decided to suspend verbosity for the duration of one entry. Now here's a chronology.

**March 4, 1875** – James Creighton and McGill University students play the first indoor hockey game and participate in sport's first bench-clearing bloodbath.

**1888, a few seconds later** – Thoroughly embarrassed, Stanley grabs the first thing he can find, a piece of silver dinnerware he just purchased, and insists it was what he meant all along. It is accepted.



**1905** – Over the next decade, numerous professional leagues are founded throughout areas in Canada, and subsequently fold as players are forced to quit due to gangrene, pneumonia, and needing a second job to make sure their family doesn't starve to death.

**1917** – Team owners from disbanded and suspended leagues determine that professional hockey will only succeed if it's operated by one dysfunctional entity rather than several of them. Under this philosophy, the National Hockey League (NHL) is born.

**1926-1933** – The NHL expands to ten teams by the early 1930s. League officials are confident that this steady growth is a portent of many good years to come.

**1942** – The NHL makes the most out of a bad situation and coins its roster of six teams – Boston, New York, Detroit, Chicago, Montreal, and Toronto – the "Original Six," ultimately omitting the melancholy mention of the "Deceased Four."

**1883** – Fed up with all the "pussies" in the game, Creighton seeks out other hockey clubs to battle, leading to an annual championship competition at the Montreal Winter Carnival.

**1893** – In Winnipeg, players develop the 'scoop shot,' which lets them propel the puck in the air. They also repurpose cricket pads to protect a goalie's legs, but somehow forget about protecting a goalie's face.

**1893** – By this point, there are hundreds of hockey teams playing or being established in Canada. Incidentally, the country's mortality rate rises 600% from the decade prior.



Top scorers, Montreal Wanderers (1907)

**1917** – Frank Calder becomes the NHL's first president. He retains the position until his death in 1943 and, because of an unresolved deadlock vote, a few years after that until he really starts to smell and the owners toss him out back.

**1933** – The Great Depression hits. League officials hope that nobody quoted them on that 'many good years' thing.

**1945** – Maurice 'Rocket' Richard of the Montreal Canadiens scores 50 goals in 50 games. French Canadian protestors, disenfranchised by their lack of representation in government, celebrate by burning 50 buildings down.

**Winter Carnival, 1888** – Canadian Governor General Lord Stanley, a hockey enthusiast, offers his cup to the champion. It is rejected after realizing he meant a part of his jockstrap.



**1896** – The Western Pennsylvania Hockey League plays its opening season as the first professional league. The Athletic Club of Pittsburgh wins the title, an omen of the city's everlasting predilection for success in sports over infrastructure and quality of life.

**1908** – An international governing body is formed in Paris that later becomes the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF). The federation enlists the support of countless European nations, but is ignored by Canada and the United States, who pretend the IIHF's letters keep getting lost at sea.

**1926** – The Stanley Cup, after years of being won via interleague competition, belongs to the NHL, as it's the only league whose players didn't contract meningitis when drinking from it in their victory celebration.

**1936-1942** – In view of hockey's fearlessness and bloodshed, four NHL teams are drafted as their own battalions into World War II. Sadly, hockey sticks are no match for mustard gas and Gatling guns.





# Hockey History (Modern, #2)

“Thank God I believe in life after death. Are the police on call out there?”

-John Muckler, Oilers co-coach, following the ‘Gretzky trade’

## Modern Hockey, 1950s – 1980s: Still Unwrapping the Gauze Tape

Professional hockey, as encapsulated by the National Hockey League, experienced a revival following the Second World War.

The turnaround was welcomed, but perhaps celebrated too boisterously over the next few decades, as players – apparently displeased they hadn’t been invited to partake in world-altering warfare, or that they came back alive – took their frustrations to the ice in a fury of scraps, stitches, and disfigurement. It was over this period that hockey redefined its prerogative of scoring goals, and then causing injury, to a matter of fists covered in tinfoil and players in desperate need of medical attention.

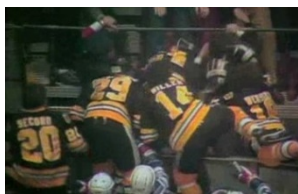
**November 1, 1952** – Hockey Night in Canada debuts on television to nationwide acclaim. Viewers are appalled when they discover the broadcasts are not dramatizations and yes, that man did actually just punch that other man in the throat.

**1961** – Wayne Gretzky is born and rests in a manger in Brantford, Ontario. A few days after his birth, three Mounties visit the home, bearing gifts of a pair of skates, a pair of gloves, and a hockey stick.

**1968** – Bill Masterson, a rookie player, dies as the direct result of an on-ice play: a collision that led to his head crashing onto the ice. The NHL takes immediate action, mandating players to wear helmets for the 1979-1980 season.

**1972, 1974** – Canada and the Soviet Union organize the Summit Series, an eight-game hockey playoff, where players and fans are able to engage in the cross-cultural experience of wishing for the death of a person from another country, not just another team.

**1979** – As goodwill ambassadors of hockey, several Boston Bruins players attempt to provide a more interactive experience for the home Ranger fans and more work for New York’s safety, healthcare, and legal professionals.



We are very proud of our players and the way they conducted themselves under very difficult circumstances.”

-Paul Mooney, former head of the Bruins

**January 18, 1958** – Willie O’Ree becomes the NHL’s first black player. This achievement is one of many for civil rights in a tumultuous period of North American history, so stop waiting for a joke, you dick.

**1967** – The NHL expands to 12 teams, reviving defunct franchises and establishing others on the West Coast. The league is forced to include St. Louis after NHL President Clarence Campbell buys a bunch of ribs during their stop, but forgets his wallet in the car.

**1970** – The NHL adds franchises in Vancouver, to placate Canadians angered by the city’s previous rejection, and Buffalo, as President Campbell errs yet again while buying a bunch of hot wings.

**1972-1976** – The NHL grows to 18 franchises, as prospective owners keep inviting the absent-minded President Campbell to indulge in their city’s staple cuisine.

**1980** – The American Olympic hockey team, consisting of amateur players, defeats the highly-skilled Soviet Union team in the medal round in Lake Placid, New York. Consequently, television commentator Al Michaels reaches orgasm for the first time.

**1985-1986** – Wayne Gretzky of the Edmonton Oilers has an incredible regular season, setting the NHL single-season record for assists (163), points (215), and high-fives (390).

**November 1, 1959** – Goaltender Jacques Plante puts on a protective mask after having been struck in the face with a puck. His coach, Toe Blake, insists he not wear it for future games. Plante wisely disregards the petitions of a man named after a digit on the foot and forges goaltending history.



Plante tested several prototypes, including his homemade paper plate mask that, he reasoned, would work due to the laws of ‘rock, paper, scissors.’

**1972** – The World Hockey Association (WHA) is founded to compete directly with the NHL and maintain its autonomy as a professional league, inspired by the resounding success of the AFL and ABA.

**1979** – The NHL absorbs teams from the WHA in a merger, with both sides agreeing that hockey needs and deserves one poorly-operated, debt-laden juggernaut of ineptitude, not two.

**August 24, 1980** – Two of the Stastny brothers, gifted players from Czechoslovakia, collaborate with the NHL’s Quebec Nordiques to defect following an international tournament. It is a watershed moment for Eastern bloc players aspiring to make the NHL and Canada’s most devious maneuver in global politics to date.

**August 9, 1988** – The Edmonton Oilers trade Wayne Gretzky to the Los Angeles Kings for several players, draft picks, and \$15 million. The Kings’ office is overwhelmed with calls from fans who want tickets, as are Canadian suicide hotlines with fans who are threatening to do it.

# Hockey History (Modern, #3)

“Quack... Quack... Quack! Quack! Quack!”

-Emilio Estevez in a movie that somehow spanned an entire NHL franchise

## Modern Hockey, 1990s – Present: Straight Down the Shitter

The last several eras of professional hockey saw the sport reach one apex after another within its most dominant league: experiencing a wealth of stars and dynasties in the 1940s and 50s, rapid expansion in the 60s and 70s, and an unprecedented wave of offense and excitement during the 80s and early 90s.

Then, a new era emerged, the former giving way to an onslaught of further expansion, video sessions, oppressive defense, and a legion of assistant coaches – the types who weren't much at playing hockey, but clinical at shaping it into the muddled display of turnovers, uncalled interference penalties, and uneventful 0-0 games that still haunts the sport today.

1990-1992 – The NHL ushers in a new era of expansion by establishing franchises in San Jose, Ottawa, and Tampa Bay, likewise ushering in a new era of mediocrity, as the three teams have a combined winning percentage of .202 in their first season.

1994-1995 – The NHL season is reduced to 48 games after a prolonged labor dispute between the owners and the players. Commissioner Bettman reminds everybody that he was still at hockey camp learning the rules and please not to be mad at him.

1995-1996 – After a season off to recover from radiation treatment, Mario Lemieux returns to hockey, stating he just can't resist the pleasures of the ice, hearing the crowd, and scoring a goal while two men are bear-hugging him and yelling slurs for a French Canadian.

1998-2000 – Over the next few years, the league expands to Nashville, Atlanta, Minnesota, and Columbus, as these cities are the only ones not to hang up rudely after being cold-called by the NHL central office.



A representative is thrilled that this investor has yet to wish harm on her family, but she isn't ruling it out until she can explain that she isn't calling about cutting the electric bill like she said.

2013 – Former players file a lawsuit against the NHL, claiming it was aware of the long-term implications of head trauma sustained while playing hockey. Commissioner Bettman refutes this claim, insisting it must be a delusion brought on by something in the brain and that they should really get that checked out.

1993 – Ownership groups in Anaheim and Miami are the next to be awarded NHL franchises, after being the first two to respond to the league's ad.



1998 – The NHL allows its players to participate in the Winter Olympics for the first time in Nagano in an effort to enhance the league's international image. Al Michaels is unable to achieve climax this time around, however.

2004-2005 – Nothing interesting happens for several years, there is a lockout, and then the season is canceled. In other words: same old, same old.

2005-2006 – The NHL comes to life with the arrival and ensuing battles of two young superstars, Sidney Crosby and Alexander Ovechkin, igniting renewed interest in bass fisherman and moose hunters everywhere.

2008 – Buffalo hosts the first 'Winter Classic,' an annual outdoor game held on New Year's Day. The league hopes to capture the key demographic of hungover people who are "sick and tired of watching the goddamn Christmas Story."

2016 – Commissioner Bettman states that the NHL has selected Las Vegas as the league's next franchise, to begin play in 2017. The announcement lasts several hours as he constantly pauses to look over at two men named Knuckles and Rocco who are wearing matching track suits and are said to represent the ownership group.

1993 – The league brings on Gary Bettman, a lawyer who worked previously with the NBA, to be the NHL Commissioner and accomplish its ambitions of broadening the league's reach, increasing revenue, and resolving labor unrest.

1995 – The New Jersey Devils win the Stanley Cup, in large part by employing the 'neutral zone trap' – a defensive system, in which the team bores opposing fans and players to sleep and then assures them upon waking that the Devils won the game while they are too groggy to contest the victory.

1999 – The average goals per game falls in the NHL falls to 5.19. The league establishes several new departments and hires a rash of assistants to break down hours of video to determine the cause, but a conclusion is unable to be reached.

2005 – The NHL signs a deal to have games broadcast in the U.S. exclusively on the Outdoor Life Network (OLN), after ESPN, Fox, CBS, TBS, Sci-Fi, and HSN refuse to return the league's calls.

2005-2006 – In an effort to create 'parity,' the NHL begins to award one point to a team losing in overtime. In an effort to create good will, the league also decides to give the losing team a cookie and participation medal.

2012-2013 – Nothing interesting happens for several years, there is a lockout, and then the season is significantly abridged. In other words: same old, same old.

# PERSONNEL

# The Players (Center)

“A month before the season, I stop putting ketchup on my French fries.”  
 -Mario Lemieux, center by position and appropriately douchebag disposition

## This Fucking Guy

Whether it's the colleague usurping credit for your work, the one-upper at the dinner party, or the person sleeping with your significant other – the center is a ubiquitous figure.

The center is the focal point of many teams, taking face-offs, anchoring possession, covering defensive soft spots, and reminding teammates how hard he had to push it that last shift; but don't worry: he adopted a new training regimen this summer and is in the best shape of his life.

As a positional lynchpin on both ends of the ice, it benefits the center to be an effective communicator, to be sure that his shouts of “Give me the puck!” “Hey! Hey! Right here! Hey!” and “Why the fuck do you still have the puck?” are understood by his teammates.

While not on the ice, the center never ceases to remind nearby persons of his labors, relegating the tribulations of others to the periphery: automotive troubles are dwarfed by a shoddy skate edge in Game 5 of the Stanley Cup Finals; an occupational injury is dismissed by a dozen stitches and a broken nose – plus a game-winning goal; no big deal – and marital strife is met with an anecdote about trying to copulate with your wife while you were still in the living room.



## Tools of the Trade

Standard maneuvers, terms, statistics, and more of the center:



### The Face-Off

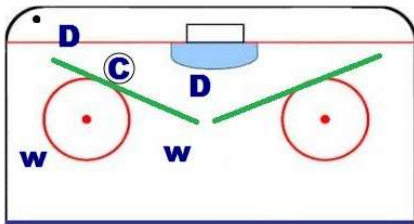
Terrorist Castor Troy (Nic Cage) is in a coma after a plane crash, so FBI Agent Sean Archer (John Travolta) has Troy's face graphed onto his own to gain entry into the crime underworld. But when Troy awakens, he does the same with Archer's. Also when the referee drops the puck between two centers to restart play.



### The Saucer Pass

The saucer pass was discovered in the 1950s, but was hidden from the public in a secret facility located in the unforgiving Yukon tundra. Only thanks to the largest grassroots movement in Canadian history is it known that it's an aerial pass made by rolling the puck from the heel to the toe of the blade.

### Common Positioning of the Center in Defense



### Common Positioning of the Center in Your Woman





# The Players (Winger)

“She said / I'm only seventeen (seventeen) / But I'll show you love like you've never seen”  
 -Lyrics from “Seventeen,” Written by Kip Winger

## Not the Glam Metal Band

Getting paid because people like loud, shiny things and high-fives, not because of the tracks “Headed for a Heartbreak” and “Seventeen.”

In standard game situations, a ‘wing’ player is positioned along the flanks, close to the rink’s boards, and is typically associated more with offensive contributions than defensive play or a daring combination of heavy metal technical skill and glam-influenced showmanship.

Wingers counted among the sport’s elite earn such acclaim mostly from scoring goals, as fans favor players who can activate the blaring sirens and horns accompanying a point for the home team. Fans have not cited an appreciation for crunchy, driving riffs, clean solos, and a powerful vocal delivery, though.

Of course, not all wing players can be renowned for their offensive acumen. Numerous professionals stay in the game by readily accepting whatever role the team needs them to fulfill, whether it be neutralizing an opposing forward, helping to wear down the other team’s defense, or holding a steady backbeat to ensure that the rest of the group can stay in rhythm while alternating between furious sweep picking and fondling nearby groupies.



## Tools of the Trade

Standard maneuvers, terms, statistics, and more of the winger:



### The Wrist Shot

A wrist shot is the most frequently used technique for shooting among wingers. It is performed by pulling the puck back and then ‘rolling’ the wrists to project it forward, making for an easy transition down to the whammy bar to

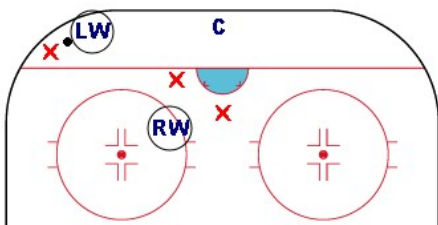


### The Snapshot

The snapshot is an effective alternative to the wrist shot, in which the player produces force primarily through a sudden, powerful ‘snap’ of the wrists. It is a valuable maneuver when you need to get a shot off quickly to avoid the 6’5” man on skates who is about to paralyze you.

complement a goal with some dive bombs and killer effects.

Common Positioning of Winger in Attack



Common Positioning of Winger in Video Shoot



# The Players (Defenseman)

“My teeth weren't that good to begin with, so hopefully I can get some better ones.”  
 -Defenseman Duncan Keith, after blocking a shot led to several lost teeth

**Riverboat Gambling on Cocaine**  
 Not a recommended behavior, but still determined by the Surgeon General to be nine times safer than playing defense in the NHL.

In a way, the hockey defenseman defies the position's historical boundaries, appearing to embrace the cavalier mentality and penchant for danger of a Wild West gunslinger more than the task of stopping the opposition's offense.

In fact, several of the sport's historians postulate that the odds of crippling injury are significantly lower for a man drinking grain alcohol and threatening to shoot people while arguing whether a jack-high beats a straight flush than his modern counterpart on ice. While the latter doesn't have to contend with saloon shootouts, he does choose to make a living by speeding violently into a reinforced wall to whip the puck back to an opposing player who will launch it at his sensitive feet, fragile wrists, or barely covered face.

In a recent poll among professional defensemen, the most common responses to why they continue to play despite such dangers were, “I've got nothing to live for, anyway,” “I like bad decisions,” and, “Christ, I'd quit in a second if we could get this damn puck out of the zone.”

Exceptional vision scanning for job that only pays \$12/hour, sure, but doesn't result in long-term brain damage

Keeps defenseman's head attached long enough for ice crew to remove corpse after getting maimed in the corner boards

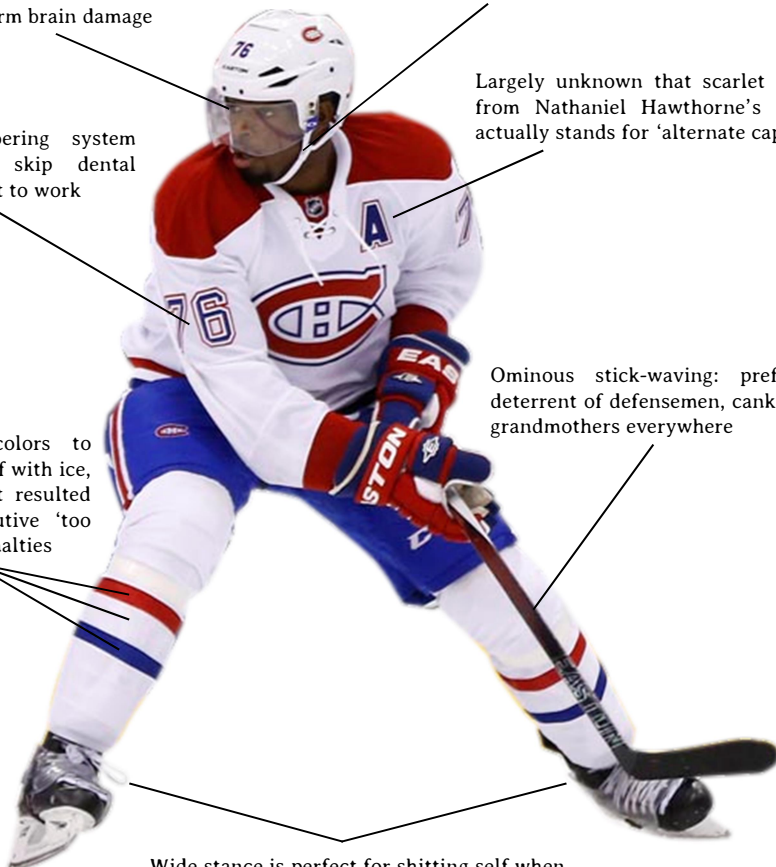
Unique numbering system lets coroner skip dental records and get to work

Largely unknown that scarlet letter from Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel actually stands for 'alternate captain'

Used team colors to camouflage self with ice, boards until it resulted in 46 consecutive 'too many men' penalties

Ominous stick-waving: preferred deterrent of defensemen, cankerous grandmothers everywhere

Wide stance is perfect for shitting self when really good forward comes skating at you



## Tools of the Trade

Common maneuvers, terms, statistics, and more of the defenseman:

### The Slapshot



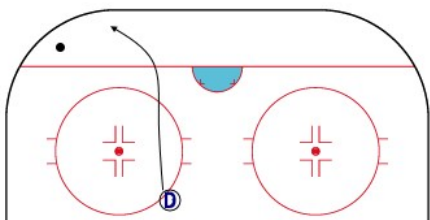
A slapshot, in which the player 'slaps' his stick against the ice right before striking the puck, can be used strategically to utilize chaos around the net and overpower the goalie. It can also be used non-strategically to hurt anybody in the way when you can't aim, take the time to look, or be bothered to give a shit.

### The Debilitating 'Body' Check

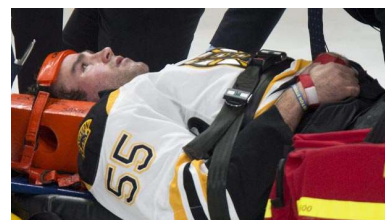


As organizations attempt to improve player safety, the NHL has answered the call as well, punishing and demonizing players who deliver checks to the head. Also, don't miss the NHL Network's inaugural broadcast of 'Hall-of-Famer Scott Stevens' 20 Deadliest Hits: Morgue Edition' airing tonight at 6 p.m.

### Common Positioning for Puck Retrieval



### Common Positioning for Inattentive Puck Retrieval



# The Players (Goaltender)

How would you like it if at your job, every time you made the slightest mistake a little red light went on over your head and 18,000 people stood up and screamed at you?"

-Jacques Plante, Hall-of-Fame goaltender

U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Marshals Service



# WANTED By U.S. MARSHALS

## KNOWN INFORMATION

**Name:** GOALTENDER

**Alias:** GOALIE, NETMINDER, SHOT-STOPPER, PSYCHO IN A MASK

**Sex:**.....MALE

**Place of Birth:**.....UNITED STATES, CANADA, A WORLD OF EMOTIONAL TORMENT AND SUFFERING

**Height:**....."TALL ENOUGH TO FUCK YOU UP"

**Weight:**.....PREFERS METRIC SYSTEM FOR MEASURING DRUGS

**Eyes:**.....A WINDOW INTO THE MADNESS

**Hair:**.....UNKEMPT TO HIDE THE BEAST WITHIN



## Have You Seen This / These Person/s?

WARNING! AUTHORITIES SEEK THE DEPICTED PERSONS AS WELL AS ANY KNOWN ASSOCIATES. SUSPECTS COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS 'GOALTENDER,' BUT KNOWN BY SEVERAL OTHER NAMES, INCLUDING 'RAGING LUNATIC.' ARMED WITH LARGE CARBON-FIBER BATTLE STAFF AND CONSIDERED HIGHLY DANGEROUS. DO NOT APPROACH. DO NOT RESPOND TO APPEALS FOR PAIN MEDICATION. SUSPECTS OFTEN SEEN TALKING TO INANIMATE OBJECTS, CURSING AT RANDOM STRANGERS, AND GESTURING VIOLENTLY AT PASSERSBY. FREQUENTLY LOCATED IN THE CREASE, IN THE LOCKER ROOM STARING AT A WALL, BEHIND THE NET, OR IN AN ALLEY BEHIND A STRIP CLUB PURCHASING AND / OR SNORTING DEMEROL. PLEASE REPORT ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION IMMEDIATELY TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES.



# Non-Playing Personnel (Coach)

“The only difference between this and Custer’s last stand was that Custer didn’t have to look at the tape afterward.”

-Former NHL coach Terry Crisp after a particularly bad loss

## A Vital Resource

The coach devises strategies and oversees the operation of the bench, but seldom known is that hockey coaches are also the primary source for the semi-dry saliva that builds up in the corner of one’s mouth.

Coaches are subject to a harsher schedule than any of hockey’s other personnel, dedicating countless hours to watching video, preparing a game plan for an upcoming opponent, and handling non-hockey problems with a hockey metaphor and the phrase, “Just shake it off.”

Yet, despite these demands, the hockey coach remains the world’s leading natural producer of the filmy white substance that develops on the outer edges of one’s lips, generating it at an unparalleled rate.

Indeed, the hockey coach’s reputation as a tireless worker is well-earned: he secretes this valuable viscous fluid not only behind the bench, but also while instructing his children how they can take better angles on the riding mower to finish the yard work faster, bluntly informing his wife that she needs to come into camp in better shape next year, and vehemently insisting to his family counselor that a switch to a 1-3-1 neutral zone trap can save his marriage.

Unleashes more than 50 unique strands of saliva, bile, vitriol, and acrimony, but still hasn’t come up with better compliment than “good game”

Purposely developed male-pattern hair loss as veteran move to avoid embarrassing helmet hair

Active hands great for hailing cab when team bus, charter flight ‘forgets’ to wait for coach to board after bad game

Confident attire to conceal being completely overwhelmed and crying in bathroom stall between periods



Belt really pushing for team MVP this year

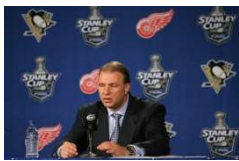
Seems like vital document, actually just Boston Market menu

Players sitting here trying to pretend they aren’t hovering directly in front of coach’s genitals

## Tools of the Trade

Common maneuvers, terms, statistics, and more of the coach:

### The Press Conference



Although media access is usually a contractual obligation, it is nonetheless a good opportunity for a coach to motivate players, portray his style and approach, and ask others if they know how to fix a furnace because he’s new in town and hasn’t found a guy yet.

### The Price Reduction



Good coaches count foresight among their strengths, including anticipating the end of their tenure. The best coaches quickly alter their Zillow and Trulia listings to usher in a fresh wave of prospective buyers and get out of town before someone vandalizes the house with putline.

### Common Coach’s Paperwork Mid-Game



### Common Coach’s Paperwork Post-Season





# Non-Playing Personnel (General Manager)

"I have never been embarrassed to work in the NHL as I was on July 1 and 2. I know we can't support the salaries... We're going head-to-head with people who are nuts, absolutely out of their minds."  
 -GM Brian Burke, commenting on high-value free agent signings in 2001

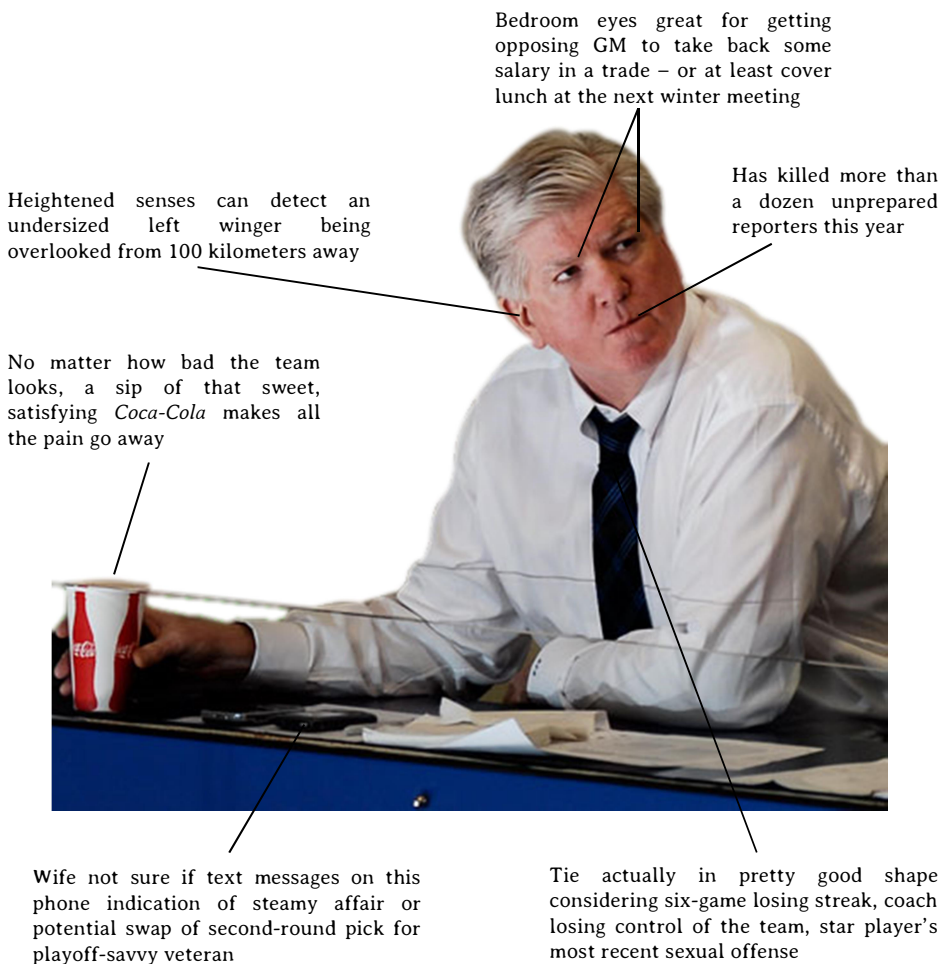
## Somewhere On the Spectrum

A GM excels at crunching numbers, analyzing hypotheticals, and determining whether a 16-year-old Swedish boy can succeed at professional hockey after watching him for twenty-six seconds.

His aptitude in these areas can lead to shortcomings elsewhere, though, as most GMs are unable to engage in a conversation without attempting to exchange a few loose bills and the remains of a chicken salad sandwich for a soda out of the machine and a ride back to the hotel.

In fact, the peculiarities of the common hockey GM can result in a number of odd behaviors, including signing a feisty fourth-grader to a six-year, 42-boxes of Gushers contract to protect his star child at school and refusing to pay for his groceries unless an arbitrator is present to ensure that he's paying fair market value.

Unfortunately, these issues can rarely be addressed because he is locked away in his office explaining to the 12-year-old dog that they've "had a good a run together, and this family loves you, but it's about time to go in the other direction," before taking one final trip to the vet.



## Tools of the Trade

Common maneuvers, terms, statistics, and more of the general manager:

### Outdated Cellular Technology

A number of hockey's GMs rely on Blackberry devices to ensure that contract talks, trade negotiations, and e-mail correspondence take as long as possible – not to mention that last-minute call at the register to the place down the road in case they can match competitor coupons.



### The Complementary Piece

When working on a trade, general managers are known to use any incentive to complete the deal. It may be a draft pick or rugged defenseman – or it may be his wife yelling, "Remember, this is the last time!" as he drops her off at room 110 of the Holiday Inn as specified.



### Common Positioning of GM at Press Conference



### Common Positioning of GM at Bar



# RULES

# The Rules (General)

“Two minutes, by yourself, you know, and you feel shame, you know. And then you get free.”  
-Denis Lemieux in *Slapshot*

## Mostly For Show

It's reasonable to believe that fast-paced contact sports like hockey have rules and procedures in place to ensure fair play and the safety of its participants. Of course, reason and hockey haven't been on speaking terms since the 70s.

Most of hockey's rules and procedures were established on the heels of the utterance, "That's no good," and calls for emergency assistance. To protect against any misunderstanding, the sport's leading figures thought it best to define each offense with the exact wording used in the police report. It was hoped that these measures would extend the average playing career (six weeks) and finally absolve hockey from being included in the League of Nation's list of developments most detrimental to the continued peace and survival of humanity. As the sport progressed, its forefathers expected that the system of rules would develop and adapt in kind. Outside of tinkering with procedural rules, however, little has changed; in fact, most leagues keep a copy of regulations on file only so they can qualify for a discount on health insurance.

Modern hockey games are officiated by a team of referees, who are tasked with issuing penalties, and linesmen, who monitor the game for procedural infractions. In annual self-evaluations, both groups have admitted that the game has become so fast, they call most plays "to break up the boredom" or because they "accidentally blow the whistle and everybody starts staring at [them] uncomfortably."

## When 'Accountability' Is a Few Syllables Too Many

In most places, violently swinging blunt objects, launching others into stiff, unforgiving surfaces, and fighting in a public forum all result in considerable litigation and possible jail time.

In hockey, such trifling misdeeds, and others like them, are handled by sending the offender to the penalty box: a small 'time-out area' across the ice, where the player is to sit for a pre-determined duration – especially if he wants ice cream later. Of course, most players spend this time plotting innovative ways to debilitate somebody on the other team. But how long might they have to devise such designs?

2 minutes (minor)	As a general rule: if a gurney does not have to enter onto the playing surface, a two-minute penalty will most likely be assessed.
4 minutes (double minor)	Became an established assessment after a player once bet the referee "double or nothing" that the opponent he had hit was dead, just to learn that he was only in critical but stable condition.
5 minutes (major)	While a 'major' penalty may seem appropriately harsher in response to a violent foul, it's actually a courtesy extended to the penalized player so he can call his lawyers and tell them to expect some paperwork over the next few days.
Misconducts (5, 10-minute, game)	Misconducts bar a player from the ice, potentially for the remainder of the game, which is devastating to a player trying to make an impact on the outcome and heaven-sent for the exhausted veteran who just wants to beat traffic.
Cash settlement (some bad press)	Such an outcome is reserved for less pressing transgressions, typically away from the game, including DUI, domestic abuse, and sexual assault.

## A Couple Notches Short of Catholicism

Despite claims of guilt incurred during a stint in the box, regular violations of the rulebook still plague the game on ice. How can leagues strive to limit this trend moving forward? There are two approaches that are contested among hockey's commissioners and administrators.

### Get Tougher on the Game's Offenders



One contingent of hockey's executives, owners, and administrators contends that, to reduce the number of penalties in the game, the leagues must deliver harsher punishment to those who commit them. It is argued that players are in fact privileged, when they go to the penalty box: given fresh linens, provided with a cold beverage, and in a prime position to encourage friends to take a penalty and join them – all on the spectator's dime.

### Stop Punishing Non-Violent Penalties



The other side is pushing an agenda of leniency, anticipating that removing fewer players from the run of play will ultimately benefit the game. Advocates of this model insist that penalty boxes are being packed with players who have committed harmless penalties like interference and delay of game and that it's these unfortunate players who could be bringing life and excitement to the game.

# The Rules (Penalties)

“The worst [games to referee] were nickel beer night promotions in the old Central League... Drunken fans threw full cups at the referee and the visiting team. You knew you were about to witness a bloodbath — either on or off the ice. Your job was to make sure nobody got killed.”

-Long-Time NHL Referee Kerry Fraser

## Put Your Hands in the Air

Not because you “just don’t care,” but because the man lying on the ice appears to be bleeding from his ears.

Gestures have remained a long-standing tradition in hockey to express general displeasure at the referees, fans, opposing players, one’s own coach, and one’s own family after missing that zone coverage on the game-winner. In fact, unspoken communication has been such a staple in hockey that, at some point, it was even adopted as a means of expressing a penalty. Here is a list of the most common calls seen in today’s game:



### BOARDING

(minor, major, game misconduct)

Boarding is defined as propelling an opposing player violently into the boards. By virtue of the rule’s wording, the offending player can have the penalty reduced or waived if he politely asked “How are the kids?” first.



### ELBOWING

(minor, major, game misconduct)

Elbowing, forcefully striking an opponent with one’s elbow, is often assessed a five-minute major due to the inherent malice of such a maneuver. However, a player may only be given two minutes if it’s done from the top ropes.



### BURNING AND PILLAGING

(minor)

The NHL once encouraged players to honor the sport’s Nordic ties, but after three cities were burned down, they decided to punish excessive displays of reverence with a two-minute minor and a blow to the head from Thor.



### FIGHTING

(major, misconduct)

While most leagues punish fighting with an automatic ejection, Russian officials allow it for an envelope of unmarked bills and the NHL rewards it by playing Master of Puppets on loop and a subsequent seven-year, \$42 million contract for the players involved.



### BUTT-ENDING

(minor, major, game misconduct)

Butt-ending is identified as a player striking an opponent forcefully with the non-blade end of the stick. Although it can produce a painful impact, this penalty exists for sanitary reasons, because who knows where that thing has been?



### HIGH-STICKING

(minor, double-minor)

High-sticking, or using the stick to make contact with an opponent’s face no matter the intent, is much like the North Star of hockey officiating, as it’s the only penalty that is called every time — usually... you know, more or less.



### CHARGING

(minor, major, game misconduct)

Charging is called when a player hits an opponent at an unsafe velocity to make a greater impact on the check. Away from hockey, the hand signal is a favorite among referees when they want to make a greater impact on the dancefloor.



### INTERFERENCE

(minor)

Considered a penalty because you probably need two minutes of reflection if you purposefully get in the way of somebody who intends to murder you en route to flinging a frozen piece of rubber 100 mph at another human being.



### CROSS-CHECKING

(minor, major, game misconduct)

Not penalized at first, but the league decided to assess at least two minutes after it was announced as Canada’s leading cause of death and the country’s presiding Surgeon General considered putting warning labels on the backs of each jersey.



### SLASHING

(minor)

Despite its ostensibly dangerous nature, players are permitted to ‘slash’ the legs, arms, chest, and cranium of their opponent, but not the stick — those things are expensive.



# The Rules (Infractions and Procedures)

"They've got to get [icing] straightened out before somebody gets killed in this game."

-Don Cherry

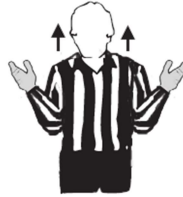
## Oh Yeah, There's a Game Going On

Despite having agreed upon a set of penalties to stifle the rate of mortal injuries, hockey's pioneering minds still felt something was missing. Scrutinizing the common practice of referees having to verbalize each call, they finally decided to institute a system of gestures for the sport's infractions and procedures after the great megaphone disaster of 1931.



### AGREE TO DISAGREE

(hurt feelings, poor peer relationships)  
Players and coaches may choose to challenge the referee's decision frequently throughout the game, to which the referee may use this signal to inform them of his indifference to their appeals for more favorable calls.



### NO FUCKING CLUE

(face-off: whatever won't enrage the fans)  
The inherent speed of hockey can make some plays easy to overlook and immediate interpretation of the rules difficult. In such cases, a referee may use this subtle gesture to inform the other referees that he has no idea what happened.



### COACH'S CHALLENGE

(face-off: determined by outcome)  
NHL coaches may now dispute a referee's call by issuing a coach's challenge. Initially excited by the proposition, the league's referees were disappointed to learn this procedure was another source of pressure to make the right call and not a clever riddle for the officiating crew to solve.



### PIZZA BREAK

(face-off: based on previous play)  
Three times each period, at roughly the 13, 9, and 6-minute mark, players take a break to enjoy each other's company and grab a quick slice. In Canada, pizza may be replaced with poutine.



### DELAYED PENALTY

(assessed when team touches puck)  
A roar tremored through the crowd as the sport was changed forever during the Hockey Officials and Kitchen Appliance Expo of 1952, when a trailblazing official suggested using the same signal to indicate two different calls.



### SOMETHING FOR THE EFFORT

(suggested tip: \$5)  
When the referee ignores you incising the rib cage of an opponent or performing unlicensed surgical procedures on him with a stick, it's customary to throw him a couple bucks for looking the other way.



### FIRST DOWN

(new set of downs at spot of ball)  
If the team on the offensive side of the ball passes the designated yard marker, then it... oh, wait, you are still intent on watching hockey? Then this signal usually means it's a goal - which is important and junk.



### TIMEOUT

(face-off: based on previous play)  
Typically, teams are allotted a single timeout per game, which can be used to rest players on an icing call, plan a play, or ask around if anybody saw the rack on that chick sitting in the third row.



### ICING

(face-off: defensive zone)  
Now a 'no touch' infraction in the NHL, icing was formerly determined by dangerous high-speed races between players to touch the puck first. This hand signal was chosen so the referee could usher first responders onto the ice as quickly as possible.



### WASHOUT

(indicates no goal scored)  
The washout signal has a long-standing place in hockey history, originally used by absent-minded referees who had forgotten the game was played on ice to warn everybody "to be careful - this shit is slippery as all hell."

*\*The editing team has indeed confirmed the existence of numerous hockey expositions throughout the world, but never one - presently or historically - that coincided with a show for kitchen appliances. This comment is likely a manifestation of Mr. Kowalski's penchant for feeding into his own grandeur. - Editor*

# LEAGUES AND TEAMS

# Leagues and Teams (North America)

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## A Bold Display of Favoritism and Self-Preservation

There are hundreds of professional and amateur hockey leagues to be covered, most of which are operated in the basement, garage, shed or other non-essential structure of a family of four in Ontario.

That said, leagues have formed, folded, and re-formed even in remote regions of the world, including – to name a few – New Zealand, Mongolia, Turkmenistan, and India, whose defunct 'Indian Ice Hockey Championship' was last won in 2010 by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police team who prevailed in the final game after accusing the other team of being a front for Chinese nationalists. Needless to say, the league's last season was its most eventful.

With the prospect of such an exhausting task, it has been advised by the editors that this section be limited to leagues and teams with which the author is most familiar and whose histories do not require the services of an interpreter to detail. The hope is to compose a concise but thorough exposition before the early onset of arthritis or the memo of the latest check is discovered. Considering these parameters, here are leagues and teams from around the world.

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### The National Hockey League

Despite being the world's most prominent league, the NHL continues to encounter obstacles to its success, such as long-standing criticism of being a "garage league." League officials shed this reputation by moving operations into the eating nook of their buddy Dave's one-bedroom apartment, but this solution has been met with controversy, as Dave announced he will have to increase their rent if they keep taking beers from the fridge and using his Netflix account at their respective homes.

### Founded

1917, after a failed attempt to deploy ice-skating riflemen in World War I

### Number of Teams

30 + 1 (2017), but franchising options are always available; see the league's website for details!

### Commissioner

Gary Bettman, though he prefers that friends, family call him "der Kommissar"

## NHL Teams



### Anaheim Ducks

Founded: 1993

Arena: Honda Center, coming with a ten-year powertrain warranty

Owners: Mickey Mouse and his gang of despotic plutocrats

Of note: in the team's short history, it has had a considerable amount of talented players: Corey Perry, Ryan Getzlaf, Jean-Sébastien Giguère, Teemu Selanne, Paul Kariya, Adam Banks, and Donald Duck



### Arizona Coyotes

Founded: 1972 (WHA – Winnipeg)

Arena: currently being repossessed

Moved: 1996, from a tundra with nothing to do to a desert with nothing to do

Of note: when asked for an interesting fact about the team, Coyotes fans will tell you that former Cardinals quarterback Dave Krieg was sacked more times than any other player in NFL history



### Atlanta Thrashers (Relocated)

Founded: 1999

Unanticipated: pandering to the local community by bringing on a couple black players somehow didn't lead to instant success

Of note: while the team's failure was the result of several factors, it may be in part attributable to its pre-game meals, including a spread of thick-cut bacon, double-fried chicken, and sausage gravy with biscuits



### Boston Bruins

Founded: 1924

Arena: smells like chowder

Championships: six Stanley Cups, a dozen welter- and heavyweight belts

Of note: one evening in 1979, a Bruins squad featuring the likes of Terry O'Reilly, Mike Milbury, and Al Secord shattered countless individual game records, including most arrests (12) and punches thrown (793)

# Leagues and Teams (NHL – cont.)




## Buffalo Sabres

Founded: 1970  
Championships: no Stanley Cups, but 24 awards for “best wings”  
Consolation: at least didn't make it to final game four times and lose them all

Of note: the team is named after the weapon of choice in the Knox family, the franchise's original owners and famed swashbucklers of northern New York



## Calgary Flames

Founded: 1971 (Atlanta)  
Arena: split between ice hockey, rodeo, and monster truck rallies  
Tradition: pass around Lanny McDonald's mustache to best player of each game 

Of note: moved in 1980 from Atlanta, where it can be hot as an open flame, to Calgary, where flame is ideal to circumvent death by hypothermia



## Carolina Hurricanes

Founded: 1972 (WHA – Hartford)  
Disappointing: named after a weather pattern  
Granted: better than being named after an industry that violently hunts sea creatures

Of note: left Hartford in 1997 to stop playing in front of unentertained spectators with a notable New England flair and play instead in front of unentertained spectators with a distinct southern charm



## Chicago Blackhawks

Founded: 1926  
Won: Stanley Cups in 1934, 1938 by claiming Manifest Destiny  
Ignored: cultural appropriation, star player's sexual assaults

Of note: All Star and Vezina trophy-winning goaltender Ed Belfour once played an entire season without sleeping while high on cocaine



## Cleveland Barons

Founded: 1967 (Oakland)  
Arrived: 1976  
Relocated: 1978  
Wow: that didn't take long

Of note: the city of Cleveland has redacted most information about its history prior to December 30, 1984, so it is hard to know more about its short-lived NHL franchise



## Colorado Avalanche

Departed: Quebec, 1995  
Signed: a French Canadian who refused to play in Quebec  
Won: Stanley Cup, 1996  
Understood: irony; also white hot, seething, inconsolable rage

Of note: despite attendance sliding as the team began to rebuild in the late 2000s, arena sponsor Pepsi still regrets hosting that night when every Pepsi purchase came with a complimentary bottle of rum



## Columbus Blue Jackets

Founded: 1997 (began play: 2000)  
Intriguing: named after Ohio's support of freedom when fighting for the Union in the Civil War  
Unfortunate: in a city named after a man who captured, raped, and murdered indigenous persons

Of note: during a practice last year, head coach John Tortorella, known for his harsh, no-nonsense approach, locked the team into a collective noogie



## Dallas Stars

Founded: 1967 (Minnesota)  
Obliged: to smile politely and laugh when Jerry Jones passive-aggressively asks how the team's revenue stream is this year  
Inevitable: ill-timed commentary about playing in, with, or around the “big ‘D’”

Of note: although not the most popular team in town, the franchise has still won more major championships – one – than Tony Romo



## Detroit Red Wings

Founded: 1926  
Stanley Cups: 11  
Avg. Attendance (2016): nine  
Meaning: great leg space and no lines for the bathroom

Of note: after 24 years on the team, long-time player Gordie Howe left during the 1970s, evidently taking the entire American motor industry with him



## Edmonton Oilers

Best Player: Wayne Gretzky, all-time leader in virtually every meaningful offensive statistic  
Traded: Wayne Gretzky, 1988  
Seemed: like a good idea at the time

Of note: after an incredible streak of success in the 1980s, the team has been unable to turn its fortunes around despite obtain four no. 1 overall draft picks, winning the mega millions jackpot, and finding a lucky penny



# Leagues and Teams (NHL – cont.)



## Florida Panthers

Founded: 1993

Free: beach-front property with purchase of two game tickets

Upgrade: to a holiday package for great perks, including controlling stake in the team's ownership

Of note: although located in a non-traditional market, the team was designed to remind fans of hockey's roots: the beach, senior citizens, and predatory jungle cats



## Los Angeles Kings

Founded: 1967

Embarrassing: non-Americans on roster still don't understand that yelling "Kobe!" not to be used for washing hands, buttoning pants, other daily acts of minutia

Of note: the franchise hired a baboon with a mullet to coach the team in 1992, after it had been well received by audiences in test screenings, including the coveted 'loud, hairy male primate' demographic



## Minnesota Wild

Founded: 1997 (began play: 2000)

Interesting: one of two teams not named with a plural noun

Bet: they think they're really fucking clever



## Montreal Canadiens

Founded: 1909

Arena: covered in red wine; smells vaguely of Munster

Insists: NHL call them 'daddy'

Of note: involved in hockey eight years before the founding of the NHL, the league had no choice but to show respect to its elder and let the Canadiens win the Stanley Cup, oh, 24 times or so in about 100 years



## Montreal Wanderers

Founded: 1903

Debuted: in the NHL in 1917

Arena: burned down a year after  
Apparently: shouldn't have built it on an ancient Indian burial ground

Of note: as the team representing Montreal's English speakers, the demise of the its arena was still mourned by the French community, as it lamented the fire being put out before it got to kill even a single Anglophone



## Nashville Predators

Founded: 2000

Arena Capacity: 20,000

Championships: none

Spectators Who Care: three

Country Music Awards: none

Spectators Who Care: 20,000

Of note: after initial interest in the team cooled off, the franchise tried to garner more support by broadcasting games on local networks following marathon runs of Reba



## New Jersey Devils

Founded: 1974 (Kansas City)

Championships: three

Named: after the crowd that resides there

Rejected Names: "Club Rats," "Go Fuck Yourself's"

Of note: goalie Martin Brodeur was sued by his wife during the 2003 playoffs for an affair with her brother's wife; Brodeur went on to win his third Stanley Cup, cementing his status as an all-time great and cold, callous piece of shit



## New York Islanders

Founded: 1972

Geography: not one of the fun, sunny islands

Team Hero: Kurt Russell as Snake Pliskin in Escape from New York

Of note: league officials were at JFK International Airport to fly to Hawaii and establish a team there, but after realizing they couldn't afford the plane tickets, they said to hell with it and stuck the team in Long Island



## New York Rangers

Founded: 1926

Stanley Cups: four – three of which won when there were still six teams

Regretted: voting for expansion

Of note: a franchise that operates in a true American fashion – work hard, frivolously spend all of your money, and have little to nothing to show for it

# Leagues and Teams (NHL – cont.)



## Philadelphia Flyers

Founded: 1967  
Reputed For: aggression, distaste for fellow man  
Also: 70's teams wearing slacks  
Abandoned: plans for a third jersey featuring khakis

Of note: the franchise is epitomized by its 'Broad Street Bullies' lineup that intimidated opponents with brutality and violence; the team hasn't won the Cup in the more than 40 years it set humanity back



## Ottawa Senators

Founded: 1992  
Compensation: paid in large bags adorned with a dollar sign  
Team Meetings: held in the third level of parking garage behind arena – come alone

Of note the team came out flying to start its inaugural season – and were promptly out of breath, losing 70 games and having a goal differential of -193



## St. Louis Blues

Founded: late 19<sup>th</sup> century in the southern Unit–oh, you mean the hockey team; that was in 1967  
Blues-Inducing: lost all three Stanley Cup Finals appearances  
Worse Yet: goaltender Ernie Wakely completely botching the chord progression at the team's jam session the next night

Of note: the team had a hard time winning fans back after it had flubbed that IV-V-I turnaround in 1968, 1969, and 1970



## Toronto Maple Leafs

Founded: 1926  
Arena: reeks of urine and Molson  
Fanbase: majority stuck with shirt pulled over head while wildly flailing arms in the direction of sound

Of note: the franchise, like the Rangers, has placed the name of the team on its logo to deceive the public into thinking its fans can actually read



## Washington Capitals

Founded: 1974  
Arena: Verizon Center  
Majority Owner: Ted Leonsis, former president of AOL  
Yet: whole arena runs on DSL

Of note: the team's first season was indeed capital, as it earned a capital 'L' 67 times throughout the year



## Pittsburgh Penguins

Fanbase: illiterate jagoffs, literate douchebags  
Old Arena: massive fire hazard  
New Arena: massive fire hazard with craft beer  
Team Chant: "Here we go, Steelers, here we go!"

Of note: the team's 'Civic Arena' was seized by terrorists during a 1994 playoff game, but they were thwarted by a local fire marshal who was apparently a master at martial arts, military equipment, and bad English.



## San Jose Sharks

Founded: 1992  
Lesson Learned: that game James Hetfield sang the national anthem by grunting 'Yeah!' for one minute, 47 seconds  
Still Better: than anything featuring Lars Ulrich

Of note: the Sharks made league history when defenseman Brent Burns became the first gorilla raised in captivity to play in a Stanley Cup Finals game



## Tampa Bay Lightning

Founded: 1992  
Championships: Stanley Cup (2004), "Most Wheelchair-Accessible Arena" (1992 – present)  
Rejected Names: "Tropical Depressions," "Low Pressure Systems Developing Just South of the Caribbean"

Of note: fans were disappointed after hearing that the team's first ownership group was potentially a money-laundering front for the yakuza, and they had yet to see somebody struck with a ninja throwing star



## Vancouver Canucks

Founded: 1970  
Canuck: an informal alternative to the term 'Canadian'  
Apparently: also a whale-like creature  
Sense Made: none

Of note: since drafting the Sedin brothers in 1999, team footage of the duo getting checked has led the world in most disappointing results for "Swedish twins get pounded"



## Winnipeg Jets

Founded: 1999 (Atlanta)  
Aeronautic Relevance: minimal  
Local Flair: announcers regularly draw parallels between hockey and farming

Of note: the fighter jet is a popular symbol among the citizens of Winnipeg thanks to hockey, sure, but the real appeal is hoping that one will fire a missile at the city and put them out of their misery

# Leagues and Teams (North America)



## The American Hockey League

Though the AHL started as its own entity, it has become the exclusive 'feeder league' of the NHL, where players go to adjust to the game's speed, develop better training habits, and ride a semi-functioning bus to Utica. Most teams model their system and style after the NHL affiliate, but tend to have laxer expectations for player behavior as coaches admit that they want to drink themselves into oblivion, too, when stuck in Des Moines, Iowa for the night.

## Founded

1936 in a merger of the Canadian-American Hockey League and International Hockey League, both of which had struggled to sustain profitable operations – a shock given the strength of the economy at that time

## Teams

30, all of which are affiliated with an NHL franchise, because nothing motivates a player like the threat of sending him to Bridgeport, Connecticut

## Notable AHL Teams

### Cleveland Monsters

Founded: 1997 (IHL)

Formerly: Lake Erie Monsters

Affiliate: Columbus Blue Jackets

Obvious: team-building session with a relaxed day at the lake

Unforeseen: half the team getting dysentery



Of note: the team made waves in 2015 by announcing it was leaving its long-time partner, the Colorado Avalanche, and taking its talents to the breezy streets of central Ohio

### San Antonio Rampage

Founded: 1971

Affiliate: Colorado Avalanche

Culture Shock: players moving from a city with legalized marijuana to one where it's culturally acceptable to shoot men with long hair in public



Of note: a fan favorite is the night they show nothing but Tim Duncan highlights on the Jumbotron instead of the game being played

### San Diego Gulls

Founded: 2000 (Milwaukee)

Affiliate: Anaheim Ducks

Team Philosophy: utilize the frightening reputation of annoying waterfowl

Cawing At Opposition: not a penalty.... yet



Of note: the team is still dealing with legal issues that emerged from its "Live Gulls and Free French Fries" giveaway last season

### Stockton, John

Way Better: than the Stockton Heat Calgary's affiliate based in California

Career Assists: 15,806 (1<sup>st</sup> all-time)

Career Steals: 3,625 (1<sup>st</sup> all-time)

Incredible: isn't it?



Of note: the selfish city of Stockton, California is the primary obstacle to obtaining vital, nourishing information about arguably the greatest team player in NBA history

### Tucson Roadrunners

Founded: 1994

Affiliate: Arizona Coyotes

Created By: Chuck Jones

Voiced By: Mel Blanc

Musical Direction: Carl Stalling



Of note: the Coyotes organization has strict policies in place to protect its AHL players from hazing after past attempts to crush them with anvils and destroy them with dynamite

### Wilkes-Barre / Scranton Penguins

Founded: 1981 (IHL)

Affiliate: Pittsburgh Penguins

Championships: none, but Steve Carell's character Michael Scott did mention them on The Office



Of note: based in quaint Scranton, PA, the team has quickly turned into a favorite and is poised to become the town's top attraction, eclipsing selling heroin, cutting heroin, buying heroin, snorting heroin, and thinking about heroin

## Common Questions #3 – Minor-League Edition

### How well are AHL players paid?

Players in the AHL make a minimum of \$42,375 (2016), though the average salary tallies to approximately \$90,000 for the six-month season. Players can make significantly more, however, when called up to the NHL.

### What habits do players develop at this level?

In short, players learn to follow defensive and forechecking schemes more strictly. That said, given the notable raise in representing the NHL affiliate, a number of players also develop a penchant for witchcraft and voodooism targeting players on the NHL roster.



# Leagues and Teams (North America)

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“Hey, I know that guy! He plays in the ECHL.”  
(Unable to verify quote’s authenticity)

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## The Eastern Coast Hockey League

With regard to major-league tiers, the ECHL rests one rung below the AHL, but pays substantially less with an average salary of \$600 per week. Players are held to the systematic standards of the NHL affiliate, but punctuality remains an issue: many players have to work second jobs and their manager at Domino’s is “tired of hearing this bullshit” about playing professional hockey and needing out an hour early for the game.

## Founded

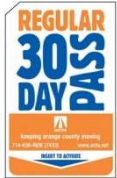
1988, with changes to the names and conferences and divisions in 2010. No alterations have been made to the league’s name, though, despite franchises in Utah, Idaho, and Anchorage, Alaska.

## Maximum Roster Size

20, though most organizations have a collection of players on-call, in case the team’s star stays home for the holiday weekend because that time-and-a-half pay at Target is too good to resist.

## Typical Perks of Playing in the ECHL

### Complimentary Bus Pass



ECHL players can spare themselves a few dollars by using a team-issued bus pass for the town they play in: so long as they stay in Zone 1 or 2, don’t use it on the weekend, and promise to be extra careful not to lose it because “money doesn’t just grow on trees, you know.”

### Anonymity



Unlike players in other major leagues, or even Canadian junior leagues, those in the ECHL can rest well knowing they are unlikely to be spotted by fans – not to mention the taxi they are trying to hail, the bartender at the local dive, the server at the diner, or that looker on register 5 at the grocery store.

### Uncomfortable Family Dinners



Nothing spices up uneventful holiday gatherings with the family like a career playing in the ECHL. Players get to be the life of the party, as they dodge questions about when they’re going to give up this “silly hockey thing” and politely decline their aunt’s offer to get them a job as a cashier at the Staples her son manages.

## The Canadian Hockey League (Junior)

The CHL is an overarching organization that regulates and manages the three major junior leagues in Canada. Junior leagues are restricted to players from 16 to 21 years of age and rival collegiate hockey as the favored path for moving on to the professional level. The CHL aims to prepare players for the demands of professional hockey by exposing them as teenagers to nefarious mismanagement and exploitation of their well-being for profit.

## Founded

1975 by a bunch of angry fathers whose kids didn’t get drafted to the NHL.

## Player Challenges

Hockey players at all levels face extrinsic pressure and injuries, but junior players encounter several unique obstacles, including schoolwork, atypical living arrangements with fellow players or local families, and inexplicable erections right before they are about to step on the ice.

## Major Junior Leagues in the CHL

### The Ontario Hockey League



The OHL is said to be an ideal cross-section of the CHL, with equal parts skill and physicality – along with a fair distribution of belligerent fathers fighting in the parking lot, coaches who preach victory over growth, and kids who wish they had just taken up arts and crafts instead.

### The Quebec Major Junior Hockey League



The QMJHL – or ‘the Q’ – brandishes a particularly offensive brand at hockey: not only because players score goals and flash their technical skill, but also because these displays are regularly accompanied by the middle finger and off-color jokes aimed at the family of opposing players.

### The Western Hockey League



The WHL features teams located primarily in Canada’s less-populated western regions. As such, they hold fewer practices, kindly allowing players a several-day head start to track traveling packs of wild wolves to guide them to the next game.



# Leagues and Teams (Europe)

“Some people here in America don’t like Russian style... Here, some fans always yelling ‘Shoot it! Shoot it!’ when you cross blue line.”

-Evgeny Kuznetsov



## The Kontinental Hockey League

The KHL was founded to compete with the NHL for recognition as the world’s best hockey league and to curb the exodus of Russian-born players to North America. The league has developed a reputation for unpredictability on and off the ice. Despite such infamy, officials have been quick to boast a significant drop in criminal acts carried out against KHL players, after the league urged franchises to stop paying players in cash at their central office – or at least stop posting the address and key code to get in on social media.

## Founded

2008, with notable subsidies from Russia in hopes of revitalizing its prostitution, narcotics, and armed robbery markets

## Teams

Drawn from eastern Europe, including the former Russian Super League, Finnish Elite League, and Belarusian Pretty Decent League

## Contract Negotiations

Soon to be the next hit investigative series and documentary on Netflix

## Adapting to the Russian Game and Lifestyle

It’s well established that the majority of elite Russian-born players choose to make their way west to compete in the NHL and, upon failing to grasp the language and culture, return home to work for their crooked uncle.

Often overlooked, though, is the wave of North Americans who adventure to the expanses of Eastern Europe to play professional hockey. While the Russian players want to test their skill at the highest level, their counterparts head east for a variety of reasons: to spend a few years abroad before settling down, to continue playing when no NHL options remain, or to catch chlamydia from a woman with an exotic accent. But what does a North American player need to do to adjust to the intricacies of Russian hockey and everyday life?

### Learning the Language



It’s critical that visiting players avoid learning Russian beyond the basic commands and procedures for relinquishing one’s valuables at gun- or knifepoint. Knowing the vernacular will only unlock secrets that both foreigners and natives would prefer had never been revealed.

### Bonding with the Locals



Players should attempt to make a positive impact in the local community by building relationships with its members: the taxi drivers, the servers, the store owners, etc. Many visitors believe they can do so via good conversation and a helping hand, but the most preferred method is generous, unsolicited cash donations.

### Knowing Management and its ‘Associates’



with the game’s number one star.

A foreign player can better understand the organization’s expectations and playing philosophy by acquainting himself with its coaches and staff. It also doesn’t hurt to be able to recognize the owner’s coke fiend nephew who celebrates victories by playing Russian Roulette

### Developing a Co-Dependency



Nothing soothes the aches and bruises of bag skates and culture shock like the malaise generated by substance abuse. To fit in, it’s best that players select a cheap spirit to binge on. Best yet, it can be used as an antiseptic or a source of personal entertainment when the apartment complex is locked down because someone released a bear into the hallways.

### Investing in a Wardrobe



No matter the location, feeling comfortable is critical to overall wellness. Foreign players should be sure to have a wardrobe that keeps them relaxed in any situation: a pair of Kevlar jeans for casual social events, a Kevlar jacket for dinners and galas, and a Kevlar body suit for contract disputes, meetings with the coach, or walking around in public following a bad loss.

### Booking a Return Flight



It may seem responsible to make a tentative reservation for a return flight home, should something happen. That said, not guaranteeing oneself a chance to leave Russia on short notice is an excellent motivator for players on and off the ice, and a long-lasting reminder that maybe that professional tryout contract in the AHL wasn’t such a bad idea after all.

# Leagues and Teams (Europe)



## The Swedish Hockey League

Like the KHL, the league has experienced an influx of North Americans, who now make up more than ten percent of its players. Accordingly, some Swedish hockey nativists have pushed to oust current league administrator Peter Gudmundson in favor of a populist official who has vowed to expel foreign players from the league and restore it to its former, all-Swedish grandeur.

## Founded

1975, by Swedes and for Swedes, and they'll be damned if some cavalier North Americans are going to take it from them

## Jersey Innovations

For a small fee, fans can order a jersey with a Velcro patch followed by suffix '-(s)son,' so they can keep updating it as players come and go



## The Finnish Elite League

Other leagues tend to focus on offensive production, adjusting rules and procedures to yield more high-tempo, goal-heavy results. The Finnish League counterbalances this obsession with scoring by celebrating other components of the game – as evidenced by their annual trophies for "Most Effective Player," "Most Gentlemanly Player," "Best Referee," and "Best Linesman," as well as "Best Smile," "Friendliest Wave," and "Safest Driver."

## Founded

1975, to provide a suitable platform for grooming Finnish players for professional hockey, so they may one day stun the world with a frenetic, dazzling commitment to neutral zone defense

## Fan Favorites

A pragmatic bunch, Finns are admitted fans of the pass, but also enjoy a well-timed poke check and proper technique when skating backwards



## National League A (Switzerland)

In any professional league, player contracts are by necessity complicated, carefully constructed documents by necessity. This point rings especially true in the Swiss league, though, as the 'league leaders' component of its statistics page can only be ordered by net worth, greatest yield percentage on investments in the calendar year, and number of Roth IRAs successfully opened.

## Founded

1999, after the employee games between the country's banks started getting a little too competitive

## League Visibility

While the league is one of Europe's most successful, executives hope to broaden its international appeal by having the logo featured on a special edition pack of Hoyer playing cards



## The Deutsche Eishockey Liga

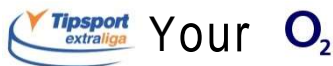
The DEL was established years after hockey had become a favored Freizeitbeschäftigung (hobby), particularly among those living in Gebirgsregionkleinstädte (mountain towns). Although it enjoys only moderate success compared to soccer and handball, the league still has 14 Eishockeyvereinsmannschaften (teams), and a recent poll has indicated that more Germans than ever would describe the sport as Vergnügungsgewährungsfähig (fun).

## Founded

1994, when the president of German hockey had finally finished stating the original German name for the sport, having started approximately two decades prior

## Fundamental Skills

In German hockey, one popular school of thought asserts that players should focus on Vulkangummitorerzielung (scoring), while the other favors an emphasis on Gegnerabhaltensprogramm (defense).



Your O<sub>2</sub>

AD

Here ELTODO

## The Tipsport Czech Extraliga

The Tipsport Czech Extraliga brings you the most action-packed hockey this side of the Atlantic, while working hard for you – the customer – to offer the best payoff rates in the entire region! Tipsport is always tapping the information wire for changes in odds and major announcements, like one of the Extraliga's best players tragically losing his leg in a shopping cart incident – which probably never would have happened had he just done as he was told.

## Founded (Sponsored by O2)

1993, as a result of the dissolution of Czechoslovakia – after which everybody went home to relax with a couple frosty, refreshing Budweiser Budvar beers

## Teams (Brought to You by Ostravar)

There are 14 teams in the Extraliga, but that number is set to be reduced if current trends continue and players can't reach their team's sales quota before the end of the season

Contact Tipsport today to hear our offers!

**BEING A GOOD FAN**

# Being a Good Fan (Philosophy)

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“Sometimes I get the puck right in front of the other team's net. Their goalie falls down, I'm all alone and the net is wide open, and I think, 'What do I do now?'”

-NHL defenseman Andrew Ference, celebrating insightful fan input

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## Basically Like Sega

Don't be convinced otherwise: you've played *NHL 94* for the Sega Genesis before, so you know enough to warrant your obscenity-heavy tirades and ignore puzzled looks from those sitting nearby.

Hockey's elitists will suggest that the pace of the game is too fast for most fans to keep up with the action the way the players do. This intimation should be rejected as an egregious offense to your background, though: you were both revered and feared among elementary school contemporaries for your mastery of *NHL 94* on the Sega Genesis, having won Billy's birthday tournament four years running until he threw the controller in a tantrum and his mom forbade any future such competitions.

Thus, it is crucial that you, as an analytical, well-versed ambassador of hockey, accept the burden of such a title and shout down any dissenters who may counter your claims that nobody ever bleeds in a fight, players score every time if they skate unabated across the mouth of the goal, and the team you support always plays better after you've had a fresh plate of pizza rolls.



The formidable line of Jeremy Roenick, Steve Larmer, and Tim Murphy was blamed universally among competitors for the abrupt end to the annual *Billy's B-Day Bash and NHL 94 Tournament*.

## The Law of the Land

In any area of expertise, it's easy to concede to the considerations and decisions of a professional. That said, you didn't park the car all by yourself, overpay a scalper, and take twenty minutes to find your section because you're an average Joe – no, you're a winner. It behooves you, then, as a champion of the people, never to forget the basic tenets bestowed upon you as a fan:

1. Skating is the most fundamental skill of a successful hockey player, so since you don't know how to, be sure you spend the entire game with a spiteful chip on your shoulder.
2. If the players don't seem to be responding to your wisdom, be sure to stand up and yell louder, using as much empty jargon and rhetoric as possible.
3. Alcohol consumption slows reaction time, which means a couple more drafts and you will be watching the game like Neo from *The Matrix*, so keep up the good work.
4. No matter the weather, bring a pair of gloves to the game. If anyone challenges your authority – be it other fans or arena management – throw the gloves down before attacking them, so you can argue in court that it was an NHL-sanctioned act of aggression.
5. Don't be humble: not only do the players need your pointers, but the beer vendors, general managers, overhead announcer, ice crew, and the father one row up desperately trying to make it through this game with his child could also benefit from your thoughtful criticism.
6. If you're uncertain how the team can improve, remember that trading everybody, sending everybody to the minor leagues, firing all the coaches, and changing the goalie seven times a game always yield positive results.
7. Never trust anybody at the game who makes explanations in complete sentences; nobody ever solved a thing using complicated clauses or multisyllabic words.
8. Occasionally make eye contact with a random person on the ice or in the crowd and begin menacingly pounding your fist into your other hand – just to assert your general dominance.
9. Although it should be understood that all visiting fans are intolerable pricks who deserve every arrow of disdain flung at them, they may be a good resource to consult when nobody is looking because they've probably seen one or two of these hockey game things.



# Being a Good Fan (Lingo)

“Get off your knees, ref – you’re blowing the game!”

-Aristotle, as per Jeff, the man in front of you wearing a shirt that reads ‘No Fat Chicks’

## Glossary of Fan Sayings, Cheers, and Jeers

Because sometimes it’s nice to substitute primordial expressions of joy and outrage with a meaningful string of vowels and consonants – even if only in humble groups of three or four that get you on the evening news.

Attending a live hockey game provides as much a unique auditory experience as it does sports entertainment. Studies suggest that the variety of screams, empty utterances, and male mating calls that bring to attention a particular part of the human anatomy resembles the diversity found in bird sounds. In fact, in a matter of minutes an astute listener can catch the yips of the credulous, the drones of the surly, and the pitiful excuses for conversation of those desperately hoping to get to second base with the person beside them after the game.

### “Boo!”

\ˈbuː\

To demonstrate disdain, esp. with an unintended ironic or hypocritical effect, e.g. booing a non-penalty on an innocuous check by the opposing team and then the opposing player who forces a prolonged stoppage in play, so he and the medical staff can look for his teeth after a “harmless” slash to the face.

### “Boring!”

\ˈbɔːr-ɪŋ\

To convey a number of intense feelings during a live game, including anger from spending so much money on something without the official NFL logo on it and confusion when the crowd should collectively make the first down signal. Popular among those who believe Steven Segal films are historical non-fiction.

### “How much time is left?!”

\ˈhaʊ ˈmatʃ ˈtaɪm z ˈleft\

An inquiry of brilliant humor, to be brayed loudly and unapologetically as the overhead announcer prepares to indicate the arrival of the final minute of the period. A fitting show of mirth for those who like to repeat aloud what they read while standing at a urinal in a public restroom.

### “Long-time listener, first-time caller.”

\lɔŋ-taɪm ˈlɪsənər fɜrst-taɪm ˈkɔlər\

To establish one’s experience on calls to post-game radio and television programs because the audience should know you have it on very good authority that an in-division rival will trade its top-pairing defensemen for two minor-leaguers and a player who retired last year after a car accident – hey, not everybody knows the guy in the mascot costume, but they should be privy to his good word.

### “Skate!”

\ˈskɑːt\

A well-intentioned, time-tested reminder issued to players that they should continue engaging in the sport’s most basic locomotion, lest they otherwise forget. Pairs well with other classics, including “Beer!” “Make it another,” and “Why, no, officer, I haven’t had anything to drink this morn–er–evening.”

### “Back in my day…”

\ˈskɑːt\

To exonerate oneself preemptively from any fault in commentary and perspective within the boundaries of hockey, ranging from a benign misunderstanding of a delayed off-sides call to a public display of xenophobia, in which all players from Europe forfeit their surname for the “more fitting” nickname, “Commie.”

### “Hit somebody!”

\hɪt ˈsʌm bɒdi\

A statement that is best reserved for crushing defeats, games nearing the end of a miserable season, and being forced to attend a hockey game instead of watching the first round of the NIT. Also a suitable means to indicate one’s avid interest in monster truck rallies.

### “Don’t you remember?”

\dəʊnt ju ri ˈmembər\

To inform someone that he or she may be suffering from an alarming deficiency in memory, evidenced by forgetting those several championships his or her favorite team has never won, that four-goal game had by a player that never actually made it to that level – that’s how to pronounce his name correctly, by the way – and that time Mothra attacked the arena.

### “Shoot!”

\ˈʃuːt\

To suggest one’s abject failure to understand physics, statistics, or the most basic principles of the sport. Conversely serves as an opportunity to flaunt one’s mastery of loud, passive-aggressive statements aimed at dissenters when the team inevitably scores upon the 139<sup>th</sup> demand to “fire the damn thing.”

### “Hockey players know how to act right.”

\ˈhɒki ˈplɛrəz nəʊ haʊ tuː ækt raɪt\

Intended to be a compliment of player conduct outside the rink, but is actually a rather conspicuous statement of prejudice that perpetuates both class and racial division by overlooking the inaccessibility of ice hockey among the socioeconomically disadvantaged and an internalized favoritism towards those who look and behave similarly to oneself. Don’t worry, reader nervously try to laugh, you can go on to the next entry and pretend you didn’t see this one.

### “USA! USA! USA!”

\ju ɛs ɛɪ\

A unifying chant in American arenas to remind all the foreigners on the ice – that is, roughly 80 percent of the roster – who’s boss around here. Bonus points for audibly questioning the 19-year-old Latvian rookie’s dedication to liberty and patriotism while wearing his jersey.

### “That was in!”

\ðæt wəz ɪn\

A common refrain used by members of the crowd to suggest that a shot from the home team that has struck the post or is otherwise extremely close to crossing the goal line has, in fact, entered the net. This verbal compass confirms, however, that the shot will certainly, beyond even the slightest suggestion of a shadow of a doubt, not result in a goal.

# Being a Good Fan (Practice)

It's Not the Score That Counts, It's the Mental Instability With Which You Refuse to Accept It  
Buy a jersey, watch some games, drown out the thoughtful analysis of a former professional player on live television with shouts of "Thunder!" and air guitar noises – it's all been done before.

No doubt, a true commitment to fandom demands more than a fashion show, cursory knowledge of the team, or several ushers at the arena calling you by name as they armbar you to the exits because you all share a "history." After all, fandom does – rather crudely and loudly, in fact – occupy a space only briefly removed from its namesake, fanaticism, and mimics its guiding principles no matter the means of classification: rhetoric, behavior, or cognition – all the while rubbing its own navel in an attempt to seduce passersby. Indeed, to practice sincere fandom is to free oneself from the comforts of rationality and humanity, and to tell the guy next to you to hold your keys so that you can throw the first punch. So how can you, dear reader, demonstrate your fandom?



## Be Personable

Many professional athletes lead lives of personal and emotional isolation, as they build and dismantle their reputation and social standing with each point tallied, mistimed play, or arbitrary non-verbal gesture that a member of the crowd inexplicably took as a person affront. This pressure may be even more problematic for hockey players, many of whom leave the familiarity of their native country to try to make to the NHL. To help players overcome such troubles, it's always considerate to wave politely as they skate by during warm-ups, herald them with words of encouragement, and show off a sign with a collage of their personal family photos, a note that you've identified where they live via local tax records, and a friendly reminder that you would like an autographed jersey – now.

## Acts of Kindness

It's easy for participants – players, coaches, and fans alike – to become overwhelmed by the circumstances of a hockey game: the back-and-forth action, constant acts and threats of physical violence, that eight-game losing streak creeping ominously towards nine – there's only so much the mind, body, and spirit can endure until the toll begins to manifest itself outwardly in the form of verbal abuse, unpleasant facial expressions, and an isolated exhibit of decaying civilization. It's during these moments that fans are most vulnerable to acting on their emotions instead of rational, pragmatic thought. Should you find yourself in such a situation, rely on your instincts of kindness: it's much more efficient and cathartic to beat a visiting fan to death if you and fellow fans do it as a group rather than arguing who gets to hit him with the crowbar first.



## Impart Life Lessons to Young Developing Fans

Fandom, like any other internalized psychosis, may be met with skepticism, confusion, and apprehension by young persons who are intrigued, but still unfamiliar with its nuances. These fans in the making meet every measure of aspiration: they observe behavior; emulate it carefully; evaluate the response; and then, with incredible attention to detail, they adapt until they've teased out the reaction that makes them feel on the path to initiation. In short order, many of these apprentices can walk, talk, and make obscene gestures as well as an established regular. It's at this point that a veteran to the practice – the older, the better – can illustrate the true dementia inherent in fandom by crushing their tiny fingers to get a souvenir puck thrown over the glass, knock them back in their seat to obtain that ill-fitting giveaway shirt, and rebuke them harshly for trying to get that free wiper fluid coupon dropped by the mini-blimps because they "don't even know what the fuck to do with it, anyway."



# Afterword



Hello, reader. I issue my sincerest apologies for this unorthodox afterword, but it is absolutely critical that you read it in its entirety. No, I am not the author, but rather his well-acquainted doppelgänger and confidant, Karl Rafalski. I

wish desperately to inform you about some troubling developments that have emerged in the time that has passed from this text's conception to its current state.

No doubt you know now of my friend, Mr. Kowalski, and his personal endeavor to "live in the shadows." Unfortunately, since having begun to cobble together this work – and a fine one it is, I must add – he has been outed by an unknown adversary and has fled to an unspecified "safe zone" to protect his own well-being.

He appreciates what is, I'm sure, your overwhelming concern. No need for widespread alarm just yet, however: he assures me that, wherever he is, there is a varied selection of wing sauces to choose from and a different domestic special on tap every night. Certainly, what my friend lacks in footspeed, usually because he refused to abandon the beer cooler in past instances of time-sensitive escape, he makes up for it in guile and a masterful network of dives, pubs, and watering holes he can rely upon to provide sports television and affordable beverages.

Allow briefly for a point of clarification, lest this tale bring pause to those more incredulous among the readership: I have been able to maintain sporadic contact with the author, from which I am able to draft this update. I don't claim to have simply divined his general whereabouts or methods, but rather have had help from a well-stationed third party. To this end, I would like to express my gratitude to the informant behind the scenes, whom I know only as the initials "G.B.," for his assistance in the matter at hand.

Forgive me for leaving you in suspense to this point about what is really afoot. You see, Mr. Kowalski only wanted to commit to this publication if he could ensure that the final product would meet his rigorous expectations. He reached out – rather unsolicited, in most cases – to some of the finest professional publishing companies and editors around the world, all of whom rejected his requests and many of whom sought legal action after his unannounced visits.

My friend, disconsolate but persistent, as hereditarily obliged by his buttery, starchy Polish blood, turned to the only group that, he believed, could fulfill his greatest ambition: the dark, merciless underworld of rogue publishers and editors. The cutthroat, insidious bastards – excuse my deluge into rage, but their underhanded nature stirs the bile dormant within – will do anything for the right price, will reduce themselves to any misdeed for the highest bidder—even edit an amateur hockey book.

Mr. Kowalski tapped into his boundless resourceful nature and innate aura of intrigue to gain access to some of the most dangerous organized unlicensed publishing groups around the globe, including "Redakcja" (The Redaction), a collection of 'rough and tumble' editors striking the grammatically inferior from existence from Warsaw to Prague, and "el punto y coma" (Semicolon), a cabal of editors rooted in Mexico who have a semicolon tattoo under their eye and have been known to kill a man in retribution for a comma splice.

Of course, despite my friend's natural appeal, these services came at a cost – one that Mr. Kowalski could scarcely afford. He was driven a sly shade of mad, though, by having so nearly reached his ultimate goal, and turned to his refined taste for deception to keep the process moving. Hiding behind a menagerie of alternate identities, bad checks, and an insistence that he just forgot his wallet in the car and would grab it in a second, Mr. Kowalski faked his way through completion of this book – until now.

He has explained to me in great detail, however, that you can help. You have joined him in spirit on this stick-toting, ice-carving journey of hockey enlightenment and all that he asks you for a simple donation, cash or blank checks preferred, made out to "Charles Kowalski," "Carlos Gaucho Rodriguez," or "Karol Hammer," sent to the P.O. box that he has secretly inserted into the text. Come on, folks, you know he's good for it... right?