

DON'T WHACK THE GOALIES

Don't whack the goalie! You can be assessed a slashing penalty for this action. Like every other penalty handed out during a game, the whistle does not have to be blown first in order for this call to be made.

Yes, you're encouraged to "keep playing until you hear a whistle" but when the play is around the goalie, BE CAREFUL!

Referees have been instructed to help protect the goalies in the WHL. It's important to help reduce their risk of injury when trying to make a save, especially when using their gloves. As a result, you may see "quick whistles" around the goalie (i.e.-whistles blown before the puck is actually covered). You may also see players warned or penalized for trying to poke the puck away from the goalie.

Our priority is to keep the game fair and safe. Stopping players from poking at the goalie and causing unnecessary injury is one way we can meet that priority.

Keep it fair. Keep it safe. And stop whacking at the goalies! It's just NOT NICE!

Lorie Springall
Referee-In-Chief