

# NHL must end hand-to-hand combat on ice

BY HILLEL FINESTONE, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN NOVEMBER 19, 2009



Dr. Hillel Finestone urges a ban on fighting, A bloodied Luke Schenn, above, heads off the ice after clashing with Chris Neil in the first period.

**Photograph by:** Wayne Cuddington, The Ottawa Citizen

Re: A win over Leafs 'temps,' Nov. 18.

I am sick of National Hockey League treatment of ice violence.

Tuesday night's game between the Ottawa Senators and Toronto Maple Leafs once again allowed hand-to-hand combat with punching and resultant bleeding and facial bruising.

What message is being sent to our male youth? That the road to conflict resolution is to drop the gloves, the office pens or the jackhammers and inflict physical injury on one's co-worker or competitor?

Violence in the NHL is not getting out of hand -- it is out of control.

Referees, who now stand aside and let the players fight, need the absolute authority to break up any beginning dispute.

NHL leaders need to finally take a stand and make fighting illegal, with stiff penalties happening if fighting or violence occurs.

The ridiculous term "head-shot" needs to be banned and changed to "intent to brain injure" because that is the frequent result of the bone jarring hits.

Hockey is a great game.

The male-dominated violent side of it needs to be dealt with before too many youths get the wrong ideas about how they should handle their aggression.

Listen up, NHL: Lead.

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