

DUBNetwork Style Guide

First of all, we have decided to call our site **DUBNetwork**. Please always use that spelling and capitalize the first four letters.

In general, I edit using Associated Press style, which is the standard for newspapers. If you're serious about writing for professional publications, you can buy the 2015 edition of the AP stylebook on eBay for like \$13 USD. Also, it's good to become friends with the dictionary at merriam-webster.com. Bookmark it and if you aren't sure about a word, look it up. For \$5 USD a month or \$30 a year, you can subscribe to the unabridged version, which includes just about anything you could ever think of.

Anyway, those are two sources I use all day, every day at my job.

Before I go further, I want to remind you to always double-check the spelling of names. I don't want to waste time making sure every player name in a story is spelled right, so I'm relying on you guys to do that. Misspelled names stick out and make it look like we don't know what we're talking about, so always check them. And then check them again. Thanks!

OK, on to the rest.

The entry for hockey in the AP stylebook includes the spellings of the following words:

blue line (but blueliner if you are referring to a defenceman)

crease

face off (verb, "the teams will face off tonight")

faceoff (noun, "he took the faceoff")

goalie

goal line

goal post

goaltender

penalty box

playoff

power play

power-play goal

red line

short-handed

slap shot

two-on-one break

Here are some other guidelines that will help you with your writing for the site (or anywhere else, really):

The most common grammar issues

commas

AP does not use the serial comma, so it's correct to write "Bob, Joe and Tom scored goals tonight" but wrong to write "Bob, Joe, and Tom scored goals tonight."

their vs. there vs. they're

Their is possessive ("He is **their** goalie."), there is a place ("The goalie is **there**."), they're is a contraction that means "they are" ("**They're** getting a lot of shots on that goalie.")

your vs. you're

Your is possessive ("That is **your** stick."), you're is a contraction that means "you are" ("**You're** having a good game.")

its vs. it's

Its is possessive pertaining to an inanimate object ("The zamboni got a stick stuck in **its** wheels."), it's is a contraction that means "it is" ("**It's** a beautiful day outside the rink.")

who vs. that

If you're talking about a person, it's who ("Those are the five players **who** are still at NHL camp."). If not, it's that ("I just saw the zamboni **that** got a stick stuck in its wheels.")

a part vs. apart

For some reason, junior hockey players can't seem to get this one right. "A part" means you're included in something, "apart" means you are separated from something. You want to be "a part" of a team. You don't want to be "apart" from your team because that means you aren't with them.

alot vs. a lot

"Alot" is not a word. You mean "a lot."

lose vs. loose

Lose is the opposite of win. Loose is the opposite of tight.

Numbers

Generally, spell out numbers from zero through nine. Use numerals for 10 and higher.

There are quite a few exceptions. For example, scores are always numerals (4-3). You also use numerals when describing power plays (they scored on a 5-on-3 power play,

they went 2-for-5 on the power play)

Heights and weights

Heights should be expressed with numerals and hyphens (5-foot-10 or 5-10 are acceptable, not 5'10"). Weights should always be a number followed by pounds (175 pounds, not 175 lbs.)

Passive voice

Read these two sentences:

A player who could lead the league in scoring is Barzal, if he is returned to Seattle by the Islanders.

Barzal could lead the league in scoring if the Islanders return him to Seattle.

This is one of those things you just have to figure out as you write. The second sentence in this example is much better because it relies more on active verbs than passive verbs. You can't avoid passive verbs (is, was, has, etc.) in your writing (and they often make sense to use), but try to keep them to a minimum. I've focused a lot of my editing here on reworking sentences to give them more of an active voice. Overuse of passive voice makes writing unengaging and amateurish.

Apostrophes

Generally, you should only use apostrophes in contractions (don't, can't) and possessives (Bob's stick, John's pads). For singular possessives with names that end in "s," use "s's" (Phillips's wrist shot). In plural possessives, the apostrophe goes after the "s" (the Chiefs' home crowd).

Never use an apostrophe to make something plural (pucks not puck's, WHLers not WHL'ers).

If you're referring to a decade, the apostrophe goes before the number (I was a kid in the '80s, not the 80's).

Capitalization

You should capitalize the first letter of a sentence and then all proper nouns (names, cities, brand names, etc.). Otherwise, you rarely capitalize words in your text.

Things like head coach, general manager, owner, president and commissioner are NOT capitalized.

Always capitalize specific division and conference names, but don't capitalize in general terms. So it would be "Seattle won the U.S. Division title" but "Seattle won the division

title.” Or “Brandon won the Eastern Conference” but “Brandon won the conference.”

Final should be lowercased in “Eastern Conference final” or “WHL final.”

Hyphens

Use hyphens for ages as a modifier (16-year-old rookie), but not as an object (he is 16 years old).

Generally speaking, use hyphens with compound modifiers (fast-paced, high-energy) but not when the first word of the modifier ends in “ly” (highly competitive, physically gifted).

I’ll keep adding to this list of common issues as we go. Some more nitpicky things:

Age groups: For consistency, we will use U17, U18, etc.

Ed Chynoweth Cup, WHL championship trophy

Richard Doerksen, WHL vice-president

Kevin Muench, WHL officiating director

Overage (not over-age) for 20-year-old players.

Periods: First period, second period, third period, overtime, shootout

Ron Robison, WHL commissioner

WHL teams. This is how to spell and format the conferences, divisions and names of the 22 WHL teams.

Eastern Conference

East Division

Brandon Wheat Kings

Moose Jaw Warriors

Prince Albert Raiders

Regina Pats

Saskatoon Blades

Swift Current Broncos

Central Division

Calgary Hitmen

Edmonton Oil Kings
Kootenay Ice
Lethbridge Hurricanes
Medicine Hat Tigers
Red Deer Rebels

B.C. Division

Kamloops Blazers
Kelowna Rockets
Prince George Cougars
Vancouver Giants
Victoria Royals

U.S. Division

Everett Silvertips
Portland Winterhawks
Seattle Thunderbirds
Spokane Chiefs
Tri-City Americans

I think it's good to use a team's proper name on first reference in a story, but it's OK to go informal after that. Things like 'Canes, Rebs, OKs, Tips, Hawks, T-Birds, Ams are fine, as are abbreviations like PA, PG, TC, RD, Med Hat, etc.