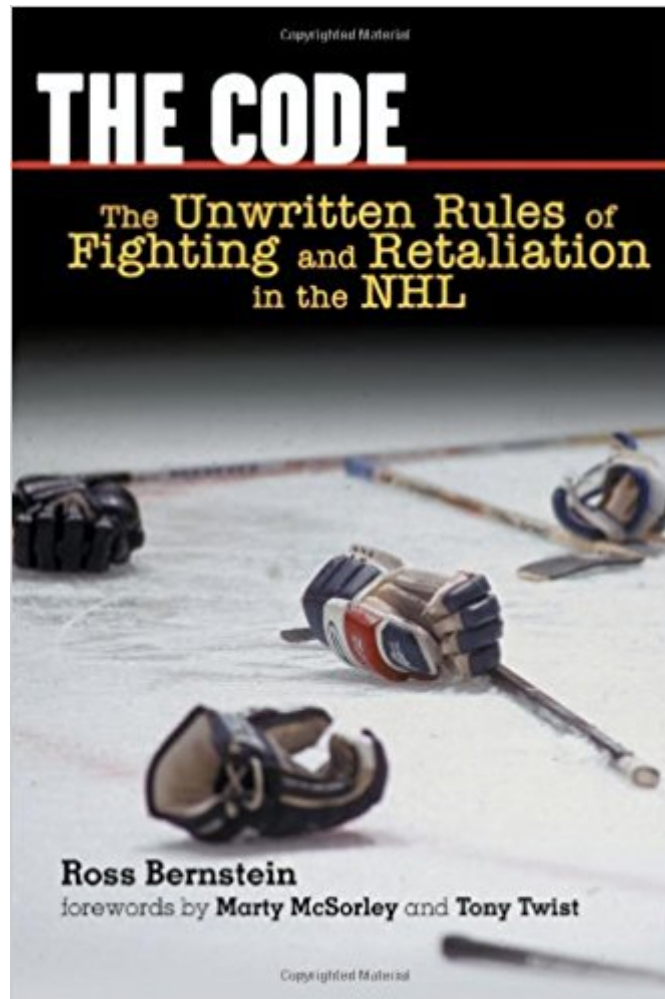


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The Code: The Unwritten Rules Of Fighting And Retaliation In The NHL



Synopsis

For decades, hockey crowds have been brought to their feet for one of the most exciting aspects of NHL games—the fights. *The Code: The Unwritten Rules of Fighting and Retaliation in the NHL* by Ross Bernstein takes you in-depth and behind the scenes to explore the history of fighting during hockey games and the honor system behind it. More than 50 NHL players, coaches, and media personalities were interviewed to examine how players go about their business during a fight on the ice. They explain why fighting is allowed and what tactics are used before, during, and after the melees. *The Code: The Unwritten Rules of Fighting and Retaliation in the NHL* discusses the top reasons why the gloves come off during hockey games.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a long-time hockey enthusiast and proponent of fighting in the NHL, I thought this book would be a great read. It is, for the most part, very educational, explaining a lot of the history of fighting and feuds in the NHL, describing the infamous, unwritten Code and what it means to the players and coaches, and also detailing how various rule and cultural changes have revised the game to its current state. (Although we can probably stop calling it the "unwritten Code" now that, ya know, there's this book.) Unfortunately, it's NOT a great read, and many of the reviews here at are spot-on. The book is amateurish and mediocre, strictly for the hardcore enthusiast or someone who desperately seeks to absorb everything to know about hockey and needs this book as a primer to understand fighting in the NHL. Bernstein's words only account for about 30% of the overall manuscript. The rest is clips and quotes from NHL players and coaches, mostly Tony Twist, Marty

McSorely, and Paul Stewart. Most quotes read like this: "Blah blah positive comment about fighting in hockey. Blah blah some anecdote about respect. Blah blah one time I did this, and here's why I beat this guy's face. Blah blah that's what the code means to me." That's great, and I get the point. But do we need 119 quotes that all sound alike? Bernstein also includes more cliché than should be allowable by law. He's in LOVE with using "quotes" to make references to things where no quotes are necessary, often being those afore-mentioned clichés. What's lamentable is that there are numerous black and white photos peppered throughout the book. That's right... good ol' grayscale.

If you want to know why fighting in hockey is not only accepted, but necessary, or if you want some privy information from some of the game's top heavyweights, then read this book. But don't spend your money for it. There are numerous errors of fact throughout this book. One is tempted to give Bernstein the benefit of the doubt, and think it's merely a keystroke, like when he reports the standard size of an NHL rink as 100' X 85'. Later he does list the correct dimensions of 200' X 85, so an early typo is forgiveable. By the time I was reading how Mike Vernon led his team to two consecutive Stanley Cups from 1996-1998 though, I knew they weren't typos. Mike Vernon wasn't the starting goaltender for the Detroit Redwings in '96-97 regular season, but he did build his stock up enough in the playoffs to get a fat contract from San Jose the following year, when Chris Osgood (and Kevin Hodson) backstopped the Wings to the Cup in '97-98. It is impossible to type "Ontario" though when you mean "Alberta". Bernstein refers to the rivalry between Calgary and Edmonton as "the battle of Ontario", and I know he knows the difference, because he later refers to it as "the battle of Alberta". After a while of reading other completely irresponsible factual mistakes, the book would seem to be much less credible. The only thing that salvages it is that quite a bit of the text is verbatim interviews with former and current players, referees and other hockey personalities. Here are some other items that will make a hockey fan furrow their brow - Listing Mario Lemieux as at least 6'5", 230. He did end his career at 230, but came into the NHL at 18 years old weighing much less and standing 6'4" tall.

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