



HOCKEY CANADA

ACTION BULLETIN D'ACTION

Bulletin No. A1211

To: Officers
Branch Presidents
Branch Executive Directors
Council Representatives
Directors

CC: Life Members/ Membres à vie
Hockey Canada Staff/ Personnel de HC

Date: 2011-09-14

File:

From: Todd Jackson – Senior Manager, Insurance and Membership Services
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SUBJECT: The New “Head Contact” Rule / Concussion Awareness – Team Pre-Season Meetings

In preparation for the 2011-2012 hockey season, Hockey Canada is introducing a platform of education and awareness aimed at the implementation of the new “Head Contact” rule with a focus on RESPECT and in an effort to minimize the potential of concussions. Instilling this focus on respect starting at the initiation level and progressing through the female and minor hockey system is a very important part of Hockey Canada’s new “head contact” rule.

The Head Contact rule is a zero tolerance position on any Head Contact in Minor and Female hockey. The Hockey Canada Board of Directors at the 2011 Annual General Meeting unanimously adopted the new rule. The Team Pre-Season Meeting Agenda will serve as a learning tool for young players, coaches, officials and parents emphasizing that any contact to the head will not be tolerated. Additionally it will act as a catalyst for education and awareness focusing on the prevention, identification and responsible follow up to concussion injuries.

Hockey Canada encourages Minor Hockey Associations, along with their team managers and coaches to take a proactive step to add an important piece of messaging about the new rule and concussion awareness to the team’s pre-season or early season meetings. It is vital that coaches work with their team staff, players and parents to outline the “Head Contact” rule definitions and expectations of play. Parents and players at the female and minor level need to know that contact to the head will not be tolerated. Team coaches should also work with team safety personnel/trainers to educate parents on the identification of concussions and responsible follow up if a player suffers a concussion.

Attached to this bulletin is a framework of the six key steps Hockey Canada recommends teams include in pre-season or early season meeting agendas:

- Provide the Head Contact awareness handout;
- Review the definition and wording of the new rule;
- Complete the parent / player tracking form to confirm viewing of videos;
- Distribute the Hockey Canada concussion card;
- Show the Think First SMART HOCKEY video or provide the website link;
- Show the Hockey Canada Equipment Fitting video.

All of these resources have been developed/made available to support the implementation of the Head Contact Rule and are readily available by visiting the Hockey Canada website at www.hockeycanada.ca and clicking on the head contact rule button or by linking directly to www.hockeycanada.ca/headcontactrule. Hockey Canada encourages all team staff to bring their parents and players together and help them Learn it! Respect it! and Pass it on!