



HOCKEY CALGARY

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Date: June 3, 2015
To: Association Presidents
From: Kevin Kobelka – Executive Director
CC: HC Board of Directors

#1502

SUBJECT: Removal of 'Body Checking' – Bantam Divisions 4 & Lower

Please be advised that this note is to confirm the decision made at last week's President Council Meeting regarding the removal of 'Body Checking' at the Bantam age category. The decision agreed upon is as follows:

- **'Body Checking' will NOT be permitted within the Bantam 4 Division & below within Hockey Calgary league, tournament, or exhibition play.**

While this rule is not being mandated by the governing bodies of Hockey Alberta & Hockey Canada, they are supportive. Hockey Calgary is aware of numerous other LMHA's within the province and across the country that are moving in this same direction, and we feel it is the right decision for our association.

We are aware that there may be some growing pains as we implement this new program, a few key points are as follows:

- Players will have the option to begin their tryout process in 'Non Body Checking' (we will not force them in to a body checking division if they do not wish)
- Players who sign up for 'Body Checking' and do not make one of the 'Body Checking' teams in their association will be forced to move to the 'Non Body Checking' division.
- Associations will determine the # of 'Body Checking' and 'Non Body Checking' teams they would like to have for the upcoming season
 - Based on player registration, # of teams, past performance
 - Suggested Grid is as follows, based on past history (**subject to change**)
 - Associations with 7 teams – 3 Body Checking
 - Associations with 6 teams – 3 Body Checking
 - Associations with 5 teams – 2 Body Checking
 - Associations with 4 teams – 2 Body Checking
 - Associations with 3 teams – 1 Body Checking

- Seeding done as per existing HC process, with a caveat that teams in 'Body Checking' divisions only be seeded within body checking divisions and teams in 'Non Body Checking' division only be seeded within non body checking divisions
- Once a team is declared as Body Checking or Non-Body Checking they will not be able to seed across the line to the other category
- Once we determine the calibre of Non-Body Checking, we may split the tiers accordingly within those divisions to ensure the correct level of competition
- Players WILL be permitted to AP from Non – Body Checking to Body Checking (if they agree to) this is not different than a Pee Wee affiliating to Bantam
- Non-Body Checking teams will not be approved for participation in body checking tournaments outside of Calgary. From our understanding there are numerous LMHA's in the area moving to Non-Body Checking programs, which should create tournaments for all.

I hope this clarifies some of the points, I am sure there are others that will need to be addressed, but this should get us started. If you have any other questions please give me a call.