



# ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

202-1185 Eglinton Avenue East Toronto, Ontario M3C 3C6

T: 416 426.7249 F: 416 426.7347

www.ohf.on.ca

Proud Branch Of



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Tournament Organizers  
**From:** Phillip McKee, Executive Director  
**CC:** OHF Member Partners  
**Date:** August 14, 2007  
**Re:** Body Checking Pilot Program Update regarding Tournaments for 2007-08 Season

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It was previously anticipated with the conclusion of the OHF Body Checking Pilot Project that a decision on the age at which body checking may be introduced would be made at the 2006 Hockey Canada Annual General Meeting. However recent changes in how and when Hockey Canada makes changes within their constitution will no longer take place at the AGM but rather the Semi-Annual Meeting held in November. As a result of this change, the body checking matter will not be decided until November 2007. Therefore, the OHF Body Checking Pilot Program will remain in effect for the duration of the 2007-08 season.

To provide clarification regarding the rules governing the OHF Body Checking Pilot Program and OHF Sanctioned Tournaments that involves Minor Atom and Atom Teams for the 2007-08 season, the following will outline the rules that continue to govern the Pilot Program:

- The OHF Body Checking Pilot Program is only applicable at the Minor Atom and Atom Competitive Categories (AAA, AA, A, B, C, D, etc.) and Member League classification (Alliance) to determine the appropriate age at which Body Checking should begin. **No house league, select or local league teams are involved in the study and therefore No Body Checking is allowed at the House League, Select or Local league Minor Atom and Atom level.**
- Teams from ODHA/ODMHA can participate in Body Checking games at the Minor Atom and Atom Competitive Categories since they are taking part in the Pilot Program.



- In situations where any non-OHF/ODMHA team(s) (or any other Branches not partaking in a Hockey Canada approved body checking pilot) are involved in competitive category tournaments, the entire tournament will have NO Body Checking. This will include all USA Hockey, IIHF, and HNO teams. This also applies to US Hockey Teams that may allow Body Checking in their sanctioned games and tournaments.
- Tournament Organizers are also reminded that if these non-OHF teams have been involved in your tournaments in the past, that these same teams would be once again afforded the same privileges of participating in the tournaments as has been the case in the past, with Body Checking rules as noted above. **Teams should not be denied tournament privileges because they do not body check if they were accepted either this season or last season.**
- The OHF Body Checking Pilot is a Research Study. It is NOT a rule change to allow Body Checking in all activities at the OHF Minor Atom and Atom levels.
- It is a controlled study, in a controlled atmosphere, to determine the appropriate age in which Body Checking should begin.
- Your cooperation is imperative to the overall success of the Pilot Program. The OHF is honoring the request of its Local Associations in conducting this Pilot Program to answer the issues raised by the volunteers on this issue.
- It is the hope of the OHF that the results of the study will help in determining the age at which body checking should be introduced.

If you have any questions regarding the OHF Body Checking Pilot Program, please feel free to contact Phillip McKee at 416-426-7413 or [pmckee@ohf.on.ca](mailto:pmckee@ohf.on.ca).