



## MHL Discipline Emphasis Policy

### Aggressive Play Policy

This Policy is intended to support the rules emphasis policy of Hockey Canada with a goal of reducing aggressive play that can lead to the incidence of concussions and other injuries. Hockey Canada has directed its officials to provide emphasis to the enforcement of checking from behind (“CFB”), checking to the head (“CTH”) and high sticking (“HS”) penalties. This MHL Policy is intended to emphasize that the Board of the MHL believes that intimidation is not a tactic that belongs in minor hockey.

The purpose of this Policy is to draw attention to dangerous or reckless on-ice behaviour and to modify that behaviour through education so that supplementary discipline is not necessary. This Policy is directed at both players and Team Officials.

The Aggressive Play Policy of the MHL applies to the following penalties: GM50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76 and 77.

Any player who incurs THREE (3) Aggressive Play Penalties shall be indefinitely suspended pending a hearing with the MHL Discipline Committee. The purpose of the appearance before the Committee will be to review with the player the circumstances relating to the penalties and to discuss with the player the concern that these penalties raise in terms of aggressive or reckless play. The Committee will also decide when/if the player can return to play.

The player’s Head Coach will also be required to appear with the player. The Head Coach will be asked to explain what steps he or she has taken, both with the team and with this player, to reduce the incidence of Aggressive Play.

A team receiving SIX (6) total Aggressive Play suspensions will result in a 2 game suspension to the Head Coach of the respective team. (Commencing in the 2012/13 season, the MHL began sponsoring a pre-season training program for all body-checking “A” teams intended to reduce the consequences of this particular Policy. Any Head Coach whose team participates in the designated training program will NOT be suspended for 2 games, rather his/her team will be required to participate in a re-training session with an MHL Referee Supervisor. The cost of this session is to be paid by the team. Further details on this Discipline Emphasis Training Program are outlined below.)

## Fighting Policy

Fighting has no place in minor hockey and is to be discouraged at all times by team officials.

The Fighting Policy of the MHL applies to the following penalties: GM30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37 and 39.

Any player who incurs THREE (3) Fighting penalties during a Season shall be indefinitely suspended pending a hearing before the MHL Discipline Committee.

A team that receives SIX (6) total Fighting suspensions will result in a 2 game suspension to the Head Coach of the respective team.

## Match Penalty Policy

Match Penalties are reserved by Hockey Canada for the severest infractions, such as any deliberate attempt to injure, spitting, kicking, threatening any game official or physically assaulting any game official. It is expected that players and team officials will exercise restraint at all times to avoid being assessed such a penalty.

For the purposes of this Policy, "Match Penalty" means any of those listed under OHF Minimum Suspension Guidelines (being MP 24, 25, 29, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 52 and 71).

Any player or team official who receives a Match Penalty will be required to attend to appear before a Special Committee. The purpose of the appearance before the Special Committee will be for the members of the Special Committee to review with the player or team official the circumstances relating to the penalty and to discuss the concern that this type of penalty raises. To the extent that the circumstances relating to the Match Penalty incurred by the player or team official warrant, in the opinion of the Special Committee, supplementary discipline by way of suspension, the Special Committee shall be entitled to impose an additional suspension of at least three games above and beyond any mandatory suspensions served prior to the date of the hearing as a result of the Match Penalty assessed.

## Discipline Emphasis Training Program

The Discipline Emphasis Training Program is an on-ice session with an MHL Referee Supervisor to review the Aggressive Play penalties. Its' purpose is to educate players and coaches in the application of the rules related to **Checking From Behind** and **Head Contact** and to promote player safety. It is also designed to promote an open dialogue between referees, players and coaches so that there is a more educated and respected approach when dealing with these specific issues.

This training program applies to all "A" teams, Peewee and up, but is primarily aimed at the teams playing in body-checking divisions (i.e. Bantam, Minor Midget

& Midget for 2015-16) and will be scheduled prior to the start of each regular season. The cost of the pre-season sessions will be covered by the MHL.

Any Discipline Emphasis-trained team that then receives SIX (6) aggressive play penalties will be required to hold a Discipline Emphasis re-training program. The cost of in-season sessions will be paid by the team. (Or the Head Coach can elect to sit-out 2 games in lieu of team re-training.)

**In Summary:**

6 total team Fighting occurrences will result in an automatic 2-game suspension to the Head Coach

(Includes all GM30, 31, 32 33, 34, 36, 37 or 39)

6 total team "Aggressive Play" suspensions will result in a 2-game suspension to the Head Coach (unless team pre-season training has been received via an MHL Referee Supervisor... see further details in the Policy section, "Discipline Emphasis Training Program".)

(Includes all GM50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77)

6 total team GM20/GM21 suspensions will result in a 2-game suspension to the Head Coach

3 total Aggressive Play suspensions (as defined above) for any participant will result in an indefinite suspension pending an MHL Discipline Hearing.