



MHL Discipline Emphasis Policy

(updated September 2022)

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 aggressive play and intimidation are not tactics that belong 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 infractions of concern fall into the categories of “aggressive play” (penalty codes GM41 through 55), “fighting” (penalty codes GM30 through 39), and all Match Penalties (MP20 through 50. See more below regarding Match Penalties.) In addition, we remain committed to eliminating “maltreatment” related infractions (GM20, GM21 and all GRM’s), with GRM21 – Discrimination, being a top priority.

Any participant (i.e. player or Team Official) who incurs THREE (3) penalties of the type described above 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 participant the circumstances relating to the penalties and to discuss the concern that these penalties raise in terms of aggressive, reckless or disrespectful play. The Committee will also decide when/if this participant can return to play.

Players will be required to appear at these Hearings with their Head Coach. 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 this unacceptable behaviour.

Any team receiving SEVEN (7) total suspensions of the type described above will have a 2-game suspension assessed 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.

Any player or Team Official who receives a Match Penalty may be required 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 above and beyond any mandatory suspensions served prior to the date of the hearing as a result of the Match Penalty assessed.

“Maltreatment”

Hockey Canada has added special rules emphasis on “maltreatment” infractions. The MHL is committed to maintaining a safe playing environment, and one which is tolerant, inclusive, and respectful of ALL of its participants. This commitment is highlighted by the training of our Officials to assess and report on infractions that attack a person’s race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, language, etc.

Discrimination (GRM21) of any type will NOT be tolerated and, if caught, will result in an immediate 5-game suspension, a Hearing, and possibly an indefinite suspension.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct (GM20) and Disrespectful, Abusive and Harassing Behaviour (GM21) will result in an indefinite suspension after three (3) such infractions.