



MEMORANDUM

September 9, 2011

TO: BC Hockey Membership

**FROM: Barry Petrachenko
Executive Director**

SUBJECT: Informational Update - Hockey Canada Head Contact Rule Change

Further to the decision of the Hockey Canada Board at the 2011 Annual General Meeting, please note the following information on the new rules that will come into effect for the 2011-2012 season.

These changes will affect participants at all levels of hockey and have been implemented in an attempt to provide a safe environment for all players.

The adjustments to Hockey Canada Rule 6.5 are as follows:

- a) In **Minor and Female**, a Minor Penalty shall be assessed to any player who accidentally contacts an opponent in the head, face or neck with his stick or any part of the player's body or equipment.
- b) In **Minor and Female**, a Double Minor Penalty **or a Major and a Game Misconduct Penalty, at the discretion of the Referee and based on the degree of violence of impact** shall be assessed to any player who intentionally contacts an opponent in the head, face or neck with her stick or any part of the player's body or equipment.
- c) In **Junior and Senior**, a Minor and a Misconduct penalty, or a Major and a Game Misconduct penalty, at the discretion of the Referee based on the degree of violence of impact, shall be assessed to any player who checks an opponent to the head in any manner.
- d) A Major and a Game Misconduct penalty, or a Match penalty shall be assessed to any player who injures an opponent under this Rule.
- e) A Match penalty shall be assessed to any player who deliberately attempts to injure or deliberately injures an opponent under this Rule.

Note: All contact above the shoulders (neck, face and head) is to be called Head Contact under one of the above.

The effect of the new changes in minor hockey are that any contact to the head, neck or face, whether accidental or otherwise will result in at least a two (2) minute penalty. As part of the new rule, any carelessness with the stick and intimidating face washes will no longer be tolerated.

Along with the rule changes, effective teaching tools will continue to be developed to teach young players that any contact to the head area is not acceptable. It is hoped that by engraining these values and habits into players at a young age, we will be able to affect behaviours of our players throughout their entire playing career.

A number of resources to better understand the head contact rule change have been made available through the www.hockeycanada.ca/headcontactrule website. Resources include videos, coaching tools to support pre-season parent and team meetings, and concussion resources including responsible "return to play guidelines".