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Hockey Canada's new Head Contact rule was passed at the Hockey Canada AGM in Calgary, Alta from June 26th – June 29th:

Head Contact – Rule F. 6.5

- 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 any player who injures an opponent under this Rule.
- e) A Match penalty shall be assessed 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 OHF Minor Council endorsed changes to minimum suspensions for head contact penalties from those previously publicized in NR 11.06 for the Minor and Double Minor penalties.

- The penalty for accidental contact under rule 6.5 (a) will be a Minor Penalty with no additional suspension.
- The penalty for intentional contact under rule 6.5 (b) will be a Double Minor Penalty with no additional suspension.
- The Major Penalty will remain the same as indicated in NR 11.06 which is a GM72 (game misconduct: plus three (3) additional games for first offence; plus four (4) additional games for second offence; and an indefinite suspension for the third offence in the same season).
- The Match Penalty will remain the same as indicated in NR 11.06 which is a MP72 (game misconduct: plus four (4) additional games for the first offence; and an indefinite suspension for the second offence in the same season).

These adjustments were made based on the samples Hockey Canada provided on different types of head contact and the penalties that should be called with them. Hockey Canada also provided video footage of accidental and incidental head contact to provide further clarification. A stand was taken by the OHF to adjust these penalties so we can balance the importance of education on these infractions while maintaining the development of players in the game at all ages. The OHF will review the rules at the end of the 2011 – 2012 season and evaluate the outcome of these changes. For further resources, please visit:

www.hockeycanada.ca/headcontactrule.

THIS RULE CHANGE WILL COME INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY

For more information visit: www.alliancehockey.com

