



Policies and Procedures of the Abbotsford Minor Hockey Association

P-8

Recreational Hockey Policy

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Version 1.0

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Recreational Hockey Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Recreational hockey program in the AMHA encompasses players in Atom (9-10 years old), PeeWee (11-12 years old), Bantam (12-14 years old), Midget (15-17 years old).
- 1.2. The AMHA tries to follow the Hockey Canada and BC Hockey Long Term Athlete Development program model as close as possible with a few alterations for delivery and implementation to take into account the nuances of our Association and league requirements.
- 1.3. The key element to Recreational hockey is the absence of “Body Checking” (also referred to as “Hitting” or “Checking”).
- 1.4. “Body Contact” (also called “Non-Hitting” or “Non-Checking”) is the type of hockey Recreational hockey plays. “Body Contact” hockey is a high level game played without body checking. Body contact hockey is played at all levels of hockey under Hockey Canada Regulations.
- 1.5. “Body Checking” versus “Body Contact” definitions
 - 1.5.1. “Body Checking” is an individual defensive tactic to legally separate the puck carrier from the puck. It results from a defensive play extending the body toward the puck carrier moving in an opposite or parallel direction. The action of the defensive player is deliberate and forceful in the opposite direction to the offensive player’s movement. It is not based only on the movement of the puck carrier.
 - 1.5.2. “Body Contact” is an individual defensive tactic to legally block or impede an offensive puck carrier. It results from the defensive player restricting movement of the puck carrier anywhere on the ice through skating, angling and positioning. The defensive player may not hit the offensive player by going in the opposite direction to the player or by extending toward the offensive player to initiate contact. There must be no action to push, hit or shove the puck carrier into the board.

2. Team Selection Process

- 2.1. The team selection process will follow a five (5) step process from Atom to Midget. The process will be coordinated by Division Directors and Coordinators and based upon the following steps:
 - 2.1.1. Last year’s coaches rankings.
 - 2.1.2. Teams are created
 - 2.1.3. Balancing games

2.1.4. Review at half way (50%) of balancing games

2.1.5. Player moves as required.

3. Balancing Requirements

3.1. PCAHA has mandated that Recreational teams within a Division must be balanced. The AMHA makes every effort to do so, and as such a fair selection process is an important step in achieving these objectives.

4. Player Movement Between Teams

4.1. Once the initial team selection meeting is concluded, no player movement whatsoever may be made by coaches or parents. Coaches may not “trade” players, even players that are at the same skill level. If and when balancing moves are required the Division Coordinator and/or Division Director will initiate those moves.

4.2. The Division Coordinator shall arrange a schedule of balancing games between the teams in that Division in order to ascertain whether the teams are balanced. Coaches are expected to play all players in their regular positions and give equal ice time during balancing games. A Division Coordinator may require for balancing games, coaches go behind the bench of their opposing teams. Any Coach suspected of “coaching down” or holding back his/her players during these balancing games will be subject to reprimand and or suspension by AMHA.

4.3. Upon the completion of approximately 50% of balancing games the Division Director and Coordinator in consultation with the coaches will review the balancing of the teams. Once again should any balancing moves be required, the Divisional Coordinator and Division Director will initiate those moves.