

Memo



To: EFHL Interlock Members: SGMHA, SAMHA, SPMHA, BAHA
From: Mark Doram, President
CC: Hockey Edmonton Board of Directors,
EFHL Bantam and Midget League Governors
Terry Engen, Hockey Alberta, Board Chair
Rob Litwinski, Hockey Alberta, CEO
Date: 11/16/2016
RE: **Non Body Checking Hockey Update**

Recent communications from many of you regarding Bantam and Midget teams in Non Body Checking categories of play within Hockey Edmonton's Edmonton Federation Hockey League (EFHL) wishing to play in body checking competition in exhibition and tournament play was added to recent Hockey Edmonton Executive Committee and Board of Directors agendas.

Significant discussion occurred at both meetings and the following motion was passed by convincing majorities:

Hockey Edmonton stand firmly behind the non body checking decision for Edmonton teams and also Interlock members' teams playing in EFHL with respect to league, exhibition and tournament play and our expectation that the motion was all encompassing for all teams in all nature of play.

This motion:

- Demonstrates our continued commitment to deal with:
 - risk factors including those that may develop from having non body checking teams play in body checking exhibition and tournament games, as well as
 - potential conduct issues in games following these competitions where coaches, players and spectators fail to adjust to the EFHL standards of play and officiating.
- Ensures that teams from Interlock Associations are being treated in the exact same manner as are Edmonton Bantam and Midget teams - as members of a league, with specific standards of play, we expect that all teams play under the same conditions.
- Is based, in part, on Leagues having the ability to set terms and conditions of membership, standards of play, etc. A core value of Hockey Edmonton's EFHL is to provide fair, equitable opportunities for all teams. We have the ability through an extensive tiering process to try and provide all teams with an opportunity to compete in a fair and safe environment. Included in this is the ability to declare tournament teams if we are unable to tier them appropriately.
- Was made with the awareness of an increasing number of competitive opportunities arising within Alberta, including a number of events that are changing to non body checking events in order to accommodate teams from Calgary, Edmonton and other LMHA's who have instituted non body checking hockey.
- Respects the governance and decision making process of Interlock associations who wish to field teams in the Edmonton Federation Hockey League and other leagues within the Branch.

Our review of this matter is complete. Your concerns, if any, should be addressed with Hockey Alberta.

Thank you for addressing your concerns with us. We look forward to your continued participation in EFHL.

Hockey Edmonton
Mark Doram, President