



PACIFIC COAST AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

CENTRAL OFFICE: #114 - 3993 HENNING DRIVE, BURNABY, B.C. V5C 6P7
TELEPHONE 604-205-9011. FAX 604-205-9016. WEB SITE <http://www.pcaha.bc.ca>

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 23, 2012.

Bodychecking Decision for Lower Mainland "C" Hockey

Pacific Coast Amateur Hockey Association announced the results of an extraordinary general meeting held Sunday, January 22, 2012, to consider the extent to which bodychecking should be permitted in Minor Hockey.

Delegates representing the 42 PCAHA-member Minor Hockey Associations voted 123-39 in favour of eliminating bodychecking at "C" hockey levels, effective the 2012-2013 season.

Delegates also voted to support a resolution at BC Hockey's June annual meeting eliminating bodychecking at the PeeWee "A" level.

Hockey Canada prohibits bodychecking below PeeWee age level (11-12 years old) and in Female Hockey. Various provincial and local jurisdictions further restrict bodychecking at other age or competitive levels. Concerns about hockey injuries, in particular head injuries and concussions, have led to discussions at the national, provincial, and regional levels about the appropriate age to introduce bodychecking skills and whether bodychecking is a necessary component at recreational or "C" levels. Up to this point, PCAHA has attempted to offer both checking and non-checking leagues at recreational levels (PeeWee "C", Bantam "C", Midget "C", and Juvenile "C").

In October, 2011, PCAHA Association Presidents requested a review of issues related to bodychecking, including injury rates. A committee undertook this task and prepared a summary report, which was circulated in early December.

"I was impressed with how our member Associations dealt with this matter, and the seriousness and concern shown by the Associations delegates," said Vanna Achtem, PCAHA President. "They reviewed the committee report, consulted with their members, and focused on player safety and injury reduction."

The changes adopted Sunday will take effect in the 2012-2013 season, which commences in August/September.

Pacific Coast Amateur Hockey Association is the governing regional Association for Minor Hockey in the Lower Mainland District of BC Hockey. Approximately 20,300 players aged 5-20 participate in Minor Hockey with the PCAHA's 42 member Minor Hockey Associations.

For further information, please contact the PCAHA Office at 604-205-9011 or info@pcaha.bc.ca.