



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Bulletin No: 14/36

Date: April 20, 2015
To: Minor Hockey Associations
From: Kevin Macrae, Senior Manager, Hockey Operations
SUBJECT: Non-body checking options in Bantam and Midget

In 2013, Hockey Alberta was a leader among Hockey Canada's branches in the changes that resulted in body checking being removed at the in Peewee level.

At that time, Hockey Alberta did not determine a non-body checking option in the divisions of Bantam and Midget. But we have monitored developments both within the province and across Canada, as non-body checking options have been announced.

The options that have been implemented vary, and range from a new rule for a league or region, right up to a provincial mandate. While the specific details vary between branches, generally the decision has been based on identifying a category of play within the division below which body checking is not allowed.

Hockey Alberta has more than 450 Bantam teams and 500 Midget teams in the province playing in 20 different leagues. Leagues and associations use various criteria for categorization and determining formats for divisions or tiers.

Hockey Alberta believes it is important to the continued growth and sustainability of the game to examine options for Bantam and Midget level players who want to play hockey, but without body checking. To that end, we are looking to work with local minor hockey associations and leagues to track and support the non-body checking options that are occurring in Bantam and Midget.

Some associations and leagues in various regions in Alberta are addressing non-body checking options within Bantam and Midget, with various options being considered, or already announced, for the 2015-16 season.

Hockey Alberta wants to work with associations and leagues to assist in developing local options for players which, ultimately, could lead to a province-wide mandate. For 2015-16, Hockey Alberta will work with our key stakeholders to achieve these objectives:

- 1) **AWARENESS:** We want our members to know groups are looking into options that may work for their local or regional areas, and we want to compile a comprehensive list of leagues and/or LMHAs that are offering non-body checking options for 2015-16.
- 2) **DISCUSSION:** We want LMHAs and/or Leagues to continue discussing and reviewing non-body checking options for their respective organizations at the Bantam and/or Midget level.



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- 3) ENCOURAGEMENT: We want our members to know this process is encouraged, and that Hockey Alberta supports the initiatives. For example, the option will be available to obtain a sanction to host a non-body checking tournament in the Bantam or Midget division.
- 4) TRACKING: We want to track the outcomes of these initiatives, and share the information across Hockey Alberta, to impact future decisions on a provincial non-body checking option. Part of the tracking process would include developing and circulating a participant satisfaction survey.
- 5) KNOWLEDGE: We want more people to see what non-body checking hockey really looks like at Bantam and Midget.
- 6) REVIEW: We want to review the success of the option(s), through an overall summary report including the satisfaction survey, and develop plans for 2016-17.

To submit your league or association's non-body checking initiative for 2015-16, please complete the short survey that can be found at this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/non-bodychecking>

The results will be compiled, and you will be contacted in the near future to follow up on what your organization has planned.

If you have questions, or for more information, please contact:

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