

MHL Discipline Policies

Aggressive Play Policy

This Policy is intended to support the rules emphasis policy of Hockey Canada directed to reducing aggressive play that can lead to the incidence of concussions and other injuries. Hockey Canada has directed its officials to provide emphasis to the enforcement of checking from behind (“CFB”), checking to the head (“CTH”) and high sticking (“HS”) penalties. This Policy will provide local support to the Hockey Canada rules emphasis. This Policy is also intended to emphasize that the Board of the MHL believes that intimidation is not a tactic that belongs in minor hockey.

The purpose of this Policy is to implement a system that draws attention to dangerous or reckless on-ice behaviour and that modifies that behaviour through education so that supplementary discipline is not necessary. This Policy is directed at both players and Team Officials.

The Aggressive Play Policy of the MHL provides as follows:

1. For the purposes of this Policy, “**Aggressive Play Penalty**” means any of the major penalties that also include a game misconduct under OHF Minimum Suspension Guidelines (being GM 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76 and 77) and “**Aggressive Play**” means play that is subject to an Aggressive Play Penalty. For the purposes of this Policy, “**Designated Aggressive Play Penalty**” means any of the penalties relating to CFB, CTH and Boarding (being GM 50, 51, 57 and 71).
2. Any player who incurs three Aggressive Play Penalties during a Season would, following the third such penalty, be required to appear before a Special Committee. The purpose of the appearance before the Special Committee will be for the members of the Special Committee to review with the player the circumstances relating to the penalties and to discuss with the player the concern that these penalties raise in terms of aggressive or reckless play. The player will be required to participate within two weeks of his appearance in an educational programme approved by the MHL aimed at recognizing and reducing Aggressive Play. To the extent that the circumstances relating to the Aggressive Play Penalties incurred by the player warrant, in the opinion of the Special Committee, supplementary discipline by way of suspension, the Special Committee shall be entitled to impose an additional suspension of up three games above and beyond any mandatory suspensions served prior to the date of the hearing as a result of the Aggressive Play Penalties assessed.
3. The head coach of the Team for each player who appears before the Special Committee under this policy will also be required to appear with the player. The head coach will be asked to explain what steps he or she has taken, both with the team and with this player, to reduce the incidence of Aggressive Play. To the extent that circumstances warrant, in the opinion of the Special Committee, the Special Committee shall be entitled to require the head coach to also participate in the educational programme approved by the MHL and shall be entitled to impose supplementary discipline upon the head coach by way of a suspension for up to three games.
4. The head coach of a Team will be required to appear before a Special Committee if his or her Team has incurred more than five Designated Aggressive Play Penalties over any five game period. Whenever a head coach is required to appear before a Special Committee, the Area Association’s President will also be required to attend with the coach. The coach and the Association will be required at this hearing to explain the

steps that they are taking to curb this Aggressive Play. If the explanation provided is not, in the opinion of the Special Committee, satisfactory, then supplementary discipline can be imposed by the Special Committee at its discretion.

5. A player who has appeared once before the Special Committee under this Policy will return before the Special Committee upon the occurrence of two more Aggressive Play Penalties. At the time of this appearance, the Special Committee will be required to impose supplementary discipline in respect of the Aggressive Play. Such supplementary discipline shall consist of at least one additional game (over and above OHF minimums) for each Aggressive Play Penalty that has been incurred above three.

Fighting Policy

Fighting has no place in minor hockey and is to be discouraged at all times by team officials.

The Fighting Policy of the MHL provides as follows:

1. For the purposes of this Policy, “**Fighting Penalty**” means any of the major penalties that also include a game misconduct under OHF Minimum Suspension Guidelines (being GM 30, 31 32 and 33).
2. Any player who incurs three Fighting Penalties during a Season would, following the third such penalty, be required to appear before a Special Committee. The purpose of the appearance before the Special Committee will be for the members of the Special Committee to review with the player the circumstances relating to the penalties and to discuss with the player the concern that these penalties raise. To the extent that the circumstances relating to the Fighting Penalties incurred by the player warrant, in the opinion of the Special Committee, supplementary discipline by way of suspension, the Special Committee shall be entitled to impose an additional suspension of up three games above and beyond any mandatory suspensions served prior to the date of the hearing as a result of the Fighting Penalties assessed.
3. The head coach of the Team for each player who appears before the Special Committee under this policy will also be required to appear with the player. The head coach will be asked to explain what steps he or she has taken, both with the team and with this player, to reduce the incidence of fighting. To the extent that circumstances warrant, in the opinion of the Special Committee, the Special Committee shall be entitled to impose supplementary discipline upon the head coach by way of a suspension for up to three games.
4. The head coach of a Team will be required to appear before a Special Committee if his or her Team has incurred more than eight Fighting Penalties over any five game period. Whenever a head coach is required to appear before a Special Committee, the Area Association’s President will also be required to attend with the coach. The coach and the Association will be required at this hearing to explain the steps that they are taking to curb this fighting. If the explanation provided is not, in the opinion of the Special Committee, satisfactory, then supplementary discipline can be imposed by the Special Committee at its discretion.
5. A player who has appeared once before the Special Committee under this Policy will return before the Special Committee upon the occurrence of one more Fighting Penalty. At the time of this appearance, the Special Committee will be required to impose supplementary discipline in respect of the fighting. Such supplementary discipline shall

consist of at least one additional game (over and above OHF minimums) for each Fighting Penalty that has been incurred above three.

Match Penalty Policy

Match Penalties are reserved by Hockey Canada for the severest infractions, such as any deliberate attempt to injure, spitting, kicking, threatening any game official or physically assaulting any game official. It is expected that players and team officials will exercise restraint at all times to avoid being assessed such a penalty.

For the purposes of this Policy, “**Match Penalty**” means any of those listed under OHF Minimum Suspension Guidelines (being MP 24, 25, 29, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 52 and 72).

Any player or team official who receives a Match Penalty would be required to attend to appear before a Special Committee. The purpose of the appearance before the Special Committee will be for the members of the Special Committee to review with the player or team official the circumstances relating to the penalty and to discuss the concern that this type of penalty raises. To the extent that the circumstances relating to the Match Penalty incurred by the player or team official warrant, in the opinion of the Special Committee, supplementary discipline by way of suspension, the Special Committee shall be entitled to impose an additional suspension of at least three games above and beyond any mandatory suspensions served prior to the date of the hearing as a result of the Match Penalty assessed.