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News Release (NR 08.02)
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Body Checking Motion Defeated by Hockey Canada

Hockey Canada's semi-annual meeting concluded on Saturday afternoon in Calgary, AB, as the Hockey Canada Board of Directors voted on a number of proposals impacting hockey at all levels in Canada.

The Hockey Canada semi-annual meeting brought together the Hockey Canada Board of Directors – the Hockey Canada Officers, representatives from all 13 member Branches, council directors, Canadian Hockey League (CHL) and Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) representatives and athlete representatives – to discuss ways to enhance hockey at all levels in Canada.

One of the major topics from the weekend's proceedings was the discussion on body checking. A motion to allow body checking at the Atom level (9-10 years old) was defeated. The regulation for the introduction of body checking will remain at the PeeWee level (11-12 years old) and above in Canada. This ruling will take effect in 2008-2009, which means that current pilot projects in Ontario and Saskatchewan will be able to complete the current season with body checking at the Atom level. As of 2008-2009, body checking will be introduced at the PeeWee level or above.

The OHF will continue with body checking at the Atom level for the remainder of this season. Beginning with tryouts in April for the 2008-2009 season there will be no body checking in Atom hockey or below. Although this decision removes body checking from the Atom level at the end of the current season the OHF is not ending its commitment to educate coaches and players using the four step body checking skill progression.

The OHF is the largest of all thirteen Hockey Canada Branches and one of three operating in the Province of Ontario. The OHF is comprised of seven Member Partners and registers forty percent of Hockey Canada's membership base.

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