



GTHL Aggressive Play Policy

This Policy is intended to provide additional support to the rules emphasis policy of Hockey Canada. Hockey Canada has directed its officials to provide emphasis to the CFB, CTH and HS rules in order to protect players from the incidence of concussions. This proposal is intended to provide local support to the Hockey Canada rules emphasis.

The support is not necessarily intended to impose supplementary discipline. Instead, it is intended to draw attention to dangerous or reckless behaviour and results in modifications to that behaviour so that supplementary discipline is not necessary. The support would be directed at both players and Team Officials. The Policy is as follows:

1. For the purposes of this policy, any of the major penalties that also include a game misconduct (GM51, 53, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76 and 77) and Checking from Behind Minor (GM50) would be defined as a “Aggressive Play Penalty”. Any Player who incurs three Aggressive Play Penalties during a Season would, following the third such penalty, be required to attend to appear before a Special Committee. The purpose of the appearance would be for the Special Committee to review with the player the penalties that have occurred and the concern that this raises with the League. The Player would be required to participate within two weeks of this appearance in an educational programme approved by the League aimed at recognizing and reducing Aggressive Play. To the extent that the circumstances relating to the penalties incurred warrant, the Special Committee could enforce supplementary discipline by way of suspension for up to three games above and beyond any mandatory suspensions served to date.
2. 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. Where circumstances warrant, the Special Committee can require the Head Coach to also participate in the educational programme. Again, where circumstances warrant, the Special Committee will be entitled to impose supplementary discipline upon a coach by way of a suspension for up to three games.
3. A coach will be required to attend before a Special Committee if his or her Team has incurred more than five Designated Aggressive Play Penalties over any five game period. For this purpose, “Designated Aggressive Play Penalties” shall be the penalties relating to CFB, CTH and Boarding (GM50, 51 and 71). The Club’s GM will be required to attend this appearance. The coach and the Club will be expected to explain the steps that they are taking to cure this behaviour. If not satisfactory to the Special Committee, then supplementary discipline can be imposed by the Special Committee at its discretion.
4. A player who has appeared once before the Special Committee under this rule will return before the Special Committee upon the occurrence of two more Aggressive Play Penalties. This will result in supplementary discipline of at least one additional game (over and above OHF minimums) for each Aggressive Play Penalty that has been incurred above three.

Passed by the GTHL Board of Directors – August 24, 2004



“The Dream Starts Here”

