



INFORMATION BULLETIN

BULLETIN #: 230308-037-I
DATE: March 8, 2023
TO: OMHA Associations; OMHA Leagues
CC: OMHA Board; OMHA Convenors
FROM: Ian Taylor – Executive Director
SUBJECT: NON-BODY CHECKING REPRESENTATIVE CATEGORY

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association continues to review, assess and implement programming and programming models in order to meet the ongoing needs of our Members.

Part of that process has included the demand and subsequent review for a non-body checking opportunity at the Representative level at U14 and older.

Currently, Body checking is introduced at U14 at the Representative Level. Body checking is not permitted at any age division of Recreational hockey.

The OMHA Representative Committee brought forward the following recommendation that was presented and approved by the OMHA Board of Directors:

To implement non-body checking hockey for U14 and above classified as BB, beginning the 2023-2024 season.

This change is the result of recognizing changes in the game of hockey. The priorities of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association remain dedicated to player safety, providing young athletes with the opportunity to best develop and acquire skills, and keeping as many players playing the game as possible. We believe this new opportunity will satisfy all of these elements.

To support the implementation of this initiative, the following provisions were also presented and approved:

- BB will be the only Representative category with no body checking permitted.
- Associations are not required to provide a Base category team to be able to offer BB Non-Body Checking entry.
- Player movement to access Non-Body Checking hockey is not permitted.

- Current BB teams have several options:
 - Recategorize to C category which would include Body Checking at U14 and older
 - Entry as a Second A team
 - Maintain BB designations without Body Checking
- Associations must provide a second entry according to Regulation.
- Minor Development (MD) will no longer be available at U14 and older age-divisions.

Education on the skill of Checking will remain a priority focusing on the 4-Step Checking Progression, which begins the first time a young player steps on the ice. This progression emphasizes the practice of Positioning, Angling and Stick Checks followed by Contact Confidence and Body Contact which is taught at the later stages of athlete development.