

PROPOSAL 79

Rule 604 Body Checking (Body Contact Categories & Non-Check Adult Classifications)	Suggested Change
<p><i>(Note) For the purpose of this rule, USA Hockey has identified two different categories of play. They are Body Contact (where Body Checking is prohibited) and Body Checking (where a legal body check is permissible). Please refer to the Glossary for specific definitions of Body Contact and a Body Check.</i></p> <p>(a) Body checking is prohibited in the 12 & under youth age classification and below and all Girls’/Women’s age classifications. These levels would be considered the Body Contact Category of play. Body checking is also prohibited in all non-check Adult classifications.</p> <p>A local governing body may prohibit body checking in any classification.</p> <p>(b) Anytime a team from a Body Contact category (see subsection (a) above) plays a team from a Body Checking category, checking shall be prohibited under this rule.</p> <p>(c) A minor or major penalty shall be assessed to a player who body checks an opponent in a Body Contact category or non-check Adult classification.</p> <p><i>(Note) Body Contact hockey does not mean “no contact.” There will be legal body contact (see Glossary) within the rules in Body Contact categories. Legal body contact shall not be penalized under this rule. However, deliberate physical contact with an opponent, with no effort to legally play the puck, shall be penalized.</i></p> <p>(d) A major plus a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who injures an opponent with a body check in a Body Contact category or non-check Adult classification.</p>	<p><i>(Note) For the purpose of this rule, an illegal body check is defined as when a player makes deliberate physical contact with the opponent using overt hip, shoulder, arm or torso action. This includes physically impeding the opponent’s progress for the purpose of physically forcing the opponent off the puck and with no effort to legally play the puck.</i></p> <p><i>USA Hockey has identified two different categories of play. They are Body Contact (where Body Checking is prohibited) and Body Checking (where a legal body check is permissible). Please refer to the Glossary for specific definitions of Body Contact and a Body Check.</i></p> <p>(a) Body checking is prohibited in the 12 & under youth age classification and below and all Girls’/Women’s age classifications. These levels would be considered the Body Contact Category of play. Body checking is also prohibited in all non-check Adult classifications.</p> <p>A local governing body may prohibit body checking in any classification.</p> <p>(b) Anytime a team from a Body Contact category (see subsection (a) above) plays a team from a Body Checking category, checking shall be prohibited under this rule.</p> <p>(c) A minor or major penalty shall be assessed to a player who body checks an opponent in a Body Contact category or non-check Adult classification.</p> <p><i>(Note) Body Contact hockey does not mean “no contact.” There will be legal body contact (see Glossary) within the rules in Body Contact categories. Legal body contact shall not be penalized under this rule. However, deliberate physical contact with an opponent, with no effort to legally play the puck, shall be penalized.</i></p>

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION APPROVE	
<i>Committee Rationale:</i> Consistent application of language with other rule books plus the Casebook to add clarity to existing rule.	

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION REFER TO YOUTH COUNCIL	
<i>Committee Rationale:</i> Place focus on development of skills and body contact at this age level as natural progression to creating more skilled hockey players, creating a safer environment and emphasizing body contact for the separation of the opponent from the puck.	