



**Hockey Calgary Body Checking
Survey of Current Player Parent/Caregivers
Key Results by Association**
April 23, 2012

A Message from PROVOKE to the Hockey Calgary Associations

The reason PROVOKE became involved with Hockey Calgary is twofold:

1. Hockey Calgary wanted to include the hockey community's voice into their decision-making, and
2. The community wanted to have its voice heard

As a result of our data collection and analysis for Hockey Calgary, we have a valuable by-product of community-by-community data that non-profit community associations often do not have the resources to acquire on their own.

We have taken the initiative to conduct some extra analyses and have segmented the results by association.

We believe strongly in supporting the connection of decision-makers to their audiences and these extra analyses will allow each association to have a finer grained assessment of what their members want and believe – empowering associations to make more informed decisions. We are pleased to be able to provide this information to each community to consider in voting decisions regarding the body checking motions at the upcoming Hockey Calgary Annual General Meeting June 23rd.

Hockey Calgary supported our idea of sharing their data – it is a generous move. We hope that you find this additional information beneficial.

Background

In January 2012, Hockey Calgary, through its subcommittee on body checking, conducted an online survey with parents and caregivers of current players of minor hockey in Calgary to better understand perceptions on body checking.

The hockey community’s response to this survey was outstanding. Each hockey association was represented in the 3609 responses.

Hockey Calgary reviewed and used the collective, community-wide results of this survey to guide their recommendations regarding changes to the inclusion of body checking from PeeWee through Midget.

As part of the data collection, respondents were able to indicate which association(s) their player(s) are or have been a part of in their minor hockey career. This allowed us to segment respondent data by association.

Hockey Calgary wishes to add value to its associations and player community and as such, they were supportive of us generating and sharing these association-by-association results. These results provide insight to the leadership of each association with regards to the perspectives of their own community. These particular analyses also show respect and appreciation to the many people who took the time to respond, making sure all who can make use of their voices understand their perspectives. Additionally, this analysis allows PROVOKE to share results with respondents – there is always high interest among respondents with regards to the results of their efforts and sharing results with people who took the time to participate is important to us.

Interpreting the Charts

Follow along each row for the association-by-association results.

Response

While representation varies by association response rates are respectable to exceptional (conservatively they run from 10% to 54%+).

Reconsider

This column indicates the percentage of respondents who DO actively reconsider participation in hockey because of body checking. This is considered a vulnerable segment in terms of future participation in hockey, and this number is uncomfortably high for any organization to face. It is however, important to notice that the majority in all clubs do NOT reconsider because of body checking.

#1 Outcome and #2 Outcome

These columns indicate what respondents believe will be the top outcomes of introducing body checking after PeeWee (i.e., the 1st and the 2nd top outcomes). The most frequently identified outcomes are an increase in safety and development of skills, followed by players being left behind as compared to other jurisdictions in body checking skill development and losing an important part of the game.

Change and No Change

The “change” column shows the percentage of respondents who favor a change of some kind to how body checking is currently handled. There are a variety of options on how to handle it, and the break out of those options is outlined in the supplemental chart.

The “no change” column indicates the percentage of respondents who indicated they did not favor a change in how body checking is handled. In all but one association, the desire for change outweighs the desire to make no change.

#1 Why Involved

The number one reason that players participate in hockey is for fun. Other options included fitness/skill development and a passion for the game.

Atom/Peewee/Bantam/Midget

These columns indicate the level at which respondents’ players currently play, allowing us to see how survey respondents break out in terms of the groups most highly affected by body checking decisions.

Supplemental Chart

The supplemental chart represents the group of respondents who indicated that they wanted some type of change with respect to body checking. The chart outlines the options for change. The most strongly supported change option is “Start body checking in Bantam games, but begin teaching body checking in Pee Wee practices”.

(Note: spreadsheet of data supports this summary)