



Earlier this season, the NMHA Board of Directors passed a motion to eliminate bodychecking from all House Divisions, effective the 2012-2013 season. With the AGM on May 9, it is the right time to explain that decision.

The Board did so for the following reasons:

1. **Lack of interest by NMHA members:** Unlike prior years, in 2011-2012, in Bantam and Midget, it was very difficult to find enough players for bodychecking teams. Some of these teams fell to 11 or 12 skaters on their roster. With the amount of ice available, all House teams must have at least 15 skaters per team. By contrast, the non-bodychecking divisions at these age levels were overfull.
2. **Lack of House bodychecking programs within the ODMHA:** Only two Districts out of 10 maintain bodychecking at House and there is a motion under consideration in one of them to remove all bodychecking divisions in their House League. On top of that, Kanata has eliminated bodychecking, so the interlock agreement with them must not include any of our bodychecking divisions.
3. **Removal of House bodychecking outside of the ODMHA:** The OHF, with almost half of the hockey players in Canada, banned bodychecking in all of their House Leagues, affecting nearly 200,000 players.
4. **Lack of bodychecking tournaments:** These tournaments have been hard to find, due to the changes noted above. Within the ODMHA, a number of tournaments switched from bodychecking to non-bodychecking during the season, due to lack of interest.

The NMHA has tried different configurations of bodychecking divisions with little success over the past 5 years. These included A divisions only, A and B divisions, and split A and B divisions. This has been very difficult and stressful for our volunteers, making it all that much harder to find convenors and directors. It was time to make a decision and establish some stability in our Bantam and Midget House divisions.

It is the unquestioned right of any member to bring a motion to the floor of the AGM to change our rules and regulations. It is also important that the NMHA Board ensures that decisions on any motion are well-informed.