



January 11, 2011

All District 3 Coaches, Players and Parents,

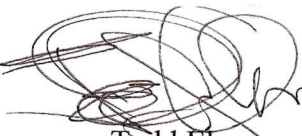
On December 13th, a message was forwarded to the association representatives for all members of District 3 to be forwarded to all of the coaches in their respective associations. The message contained information related to a directive issued jointly by the Minnesota District Referee in Chief, Steve Tatro and the Minnesota Hockey Referee Section Director, Eric Olson. This directive was supplemented by an article published in Let's Play Hockey by the Minnesota Hockey Coach in Chief, Hal Tearse.

The message in both of these publications, in part was....


“On ice officials are being instructed by the Eric Olson, President of the Minnesota Hockey Officials Association and Steve Tatro, USA Hockey District Referee in Chief, to enforce all check from behind occurrences with the proper penalty (2 & 10 or 5 & game misconduct), and to assess the proper penalties for head contact (minor, major or major & game misconduct) resulting from a check from an opponent. The officials are being advised that alternate minor penalties in lieu of a more severe penalty are no longer acceptable. In other words, the severity of the infraction is not a determining factor in which penalty to call only how much time is served.

Coaches absolutely must support the decisions of the on ice officials as we work together to make the game safer for all skaters at all levels. Coaches need to teach their players the proper techniques of body checking/contact from squirts all the way through bantams and all through the girls programs. As we move into this program coaches are advised to communicate to the parents of their players that the on ice officials are going to take a harder line on dangerous plays that could lead to injuries. Parents and coaches alike are expected to be supportive of the on ice officials.”

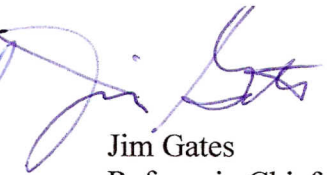
This message was immediately posted on the BHRA web site with the stated expectation that it will be applied by the officials. While the majority of the coaches appear to have gotten the message and are supporting it, there are still too many who have not, or are ignoring it. Game officials are still “getting worked over” by coaches, parents and players who haven't gotten the message. At the mid-season meeting of the Beltline Hockey Referees Association, the officials were instructed to take a zero-tolerance approach to demonstrated disapproval of penalty calls that have been made in alignment with this directive, regardless of age level. Coaches are encouraged to share this information with both the players and parents of their respective teams. This may be especially important as we head down the stretch toward the end of the regular season. Thanks for your assistance in helping to make this a safer sport for all of the participants.




Todd Elmer
President
District 3



Scott Dornfeld
Director
District 3



Jim Gates
Referee in Chief
District 3



Marc Sorenson
Coach in Chief
District 3