



Date: January 8, 2012

To: All Minnesota USA Hockey officials

From: Eric Olson  
MHOA President & MN Hockey Director of Officiating

Re: Dangerous hits

Dear Fellow officials:

Over the past week there has been a tragic incident that has occurred in the hockey community. A high school player from Benilde St. Margaret's team suffered a tragic injury due to a check from behind. For years Minnesota Hockey and USA hockey with the support of coaches, officials and association leaders has worked hard at providing a safe environment for players. However this incidence reminds us all to continue and reinforce these efforts to eliminate dangerous and illegal hits. A letter has been sent out to the hockey community by the president of MN Hockey, Dave Margenau. He is urging all concerned to help make the game of hockey a fun and safe environment for kids to participate in. In his letter he is urging officials to take the following actions:

Officials:

- Review the points of emphasis on body contact/checking for the 2011-12 season.
- Before the game, talk with the coaches regarding the points of emphasis and hits from behind.
- When there is check from behind do not hesitate to make the call.

Last season I sent out a memo addressing the need to address checks from behind as well as hits to the head. Again I am urging each and every one of you to continue to I want to stress the importance of assessing the proper penalty for hits in the back (CFB). These hits need to stop in order to help prevent the risk of concussion and other serious injury. If a player is checked from behind, **regardless of location on the ice**, a checking from behind penalty must be assessed. It is not our job to interpret neither the "intent" of the hit nor the severity of the hit based on outcome but to enforce the rules that are in the rule book. We must be consistent in the calling of these penalties. If you were to put yourself in the position of the player being hit, I think we may all be more apt to assess the appropriate penalty. There is no room in the game of hockey for dangerous hits.

I want to thank all of you for doing your part in making the game of hockey safe for all participants.

Respectfully,

Eric Olson  
MHOA President and MN Hockey Director of Officiating

11670 Zion St. NW  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Phone 763-754-0536

[www.minnesotahockey.org](http://www.minnesotahockey.org)

E-mail: [eric.olson12@gmail.com](mailto:eric.olson12@gmail.com)