



# **NEWS RELEASE**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MARCH 7, 2015**

## **GTHL ANNOUNCES RULE CHANGE FOR BODY CHECKING AT THE “A” LEVEL**

*Progressive Elimination of Body Checking at “A” Level Will Begin in the 2015-16 Season*

*GTHL Member Clubs and Associations Approve Rule Change at General Meeting*

**Toronto (March 7, 2015)** . The Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL) today announced the progressive elimination of body checking at the %A+level commencing with the Minor Bantam level in the 2015-16 season. The GTHL Board of Directors proposed the rule change, which was approved by GTHL Member Clubs and Associations with a majority vote of 326 to 195 during a General Meeting today at Humber College in Toronto.

The rule change is a result of feedback received from a league-wide survey on the topic of body checking conducted during the 2013-14 season. The majority of respondents in that survey supported the removal of body checking at the %A+level.

The GTHL Board of Directors initially proposed a rule change at the GTHL Annual General Meeting in June 2014 to move forward with the progressive elimination of body checking at the %A+level for the 2015-16 season; that motion was then amended at the meeting to commence in the 2014-15 season, but the amended motion was subsequently defeated by a slim margin.

The GTHL Board of Directors called today's General Meeting to ensure potential changes to the body checking rules were considered and resolved before tryouts begin in April.

### **About the GTHL**

Founded in 1911, the GTHL is a non-profit organization and the largest minor hockey league in the world. The GTHL registers more than 40,000 annual participants in Toronto, North York, Scarborough, Vaughan and Markham, ranging from age 4 to 20.

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