



For the Betterment of the Game

Tucker Hockey Initiatives

The objective of this new section of Hockey Zones is to offer ways to improve our great game.

We encourage readers to gather their own thoughts – to speak up and let their opinions be heard! Letters to the editors are welcomed at programs@tuckerhockey.com.

The first installment of Tucker Hockey Initiatives will focus on the following discussion points.

1. Eliminate touch up icing at all levels of hockey

Over the years we have witnessed countless and unnecessary injuries when players race back and battle first to touch the puck either to cause or prevent an icing call. For the future safety of players and to eliminate unnecessary injuries at all levels of hockey, touch up icing needs to be banned. We just watched the 2012 World Junior Hockey Championships which rules automatic icing if a player from the opposing team shot the puck from his team's side of centre ice. It sure did not take away from the quality of tournament play!

2. Eliminate fighting at all levels of hockey

With the rising concern about head shots in hockey and the rapid increase to concussions, fighting needs to be eliminated at all levels of hockey. At the top levels of hockey – Olympics, World Cup of Hockey, World Hockey Championships, World Junior Hockey Championships and even the Stanley Cup Finals – there's no fighting! Why do we need fighting in the NHL regular season and at other hockey levels? It's a form of entertainment which is not necessary in today's hockey – safety first! A great hockey game does not need fighting. The on ice officials can police the game properly with the proper and necessary penalty calls when required in a game.

3. Emphasize skill development – not winning at the Novice levels

At the 7 to 8 age level, the main emphasize should be on developing skills. The fundamentals of skating, puck control, passing and shooting are the keys. Let the kids play 3 on 3 or 4 on 4. Avoid playing 5 on 5, teaching positional play

and focus less on keeping meaningless game scores at this very young age. Let the kids play, develop their skills, have fun and grow their love of the game! Let's encourage and help the kids stay playing our great game! The importance of winning and positional play can be taught and learned at the next age level i.e. Atom.

Yes, we welcome your opinions and thoughts on the above discussion points, email us at programs@tuckerhockey.com. Share your Hockey Stories! Tell us what you think! The "best" letter submitted to the editor will receive a hockey prize!

"In life take the road less traveled rather than the road always taken, if you take the road for yourself, when you die it ends, but if you travel the road to help others, your legacy will live on."

As stated by
Mayor Claude Elliot Gander, Nfld
- 10th Anniversary of 9/11

