



Memorandum/ PSO

To: National League and Swiss League General Managers and Coaches

From: Department of Player Safety

Date: October 23rd, 2018

Subject: Cross-checking at the head or neck area

With the goal of educating, through communication, the idea is to provide a safe environment for the players. The Department of Player Safety will write the occasional memorandum throughout the course of the season. The communication is meant to help provide the opportunity for each of you to know the PSO thought process of past situations and work to provide the elimination of potential dangerous or reckless situations in the future.

We have noticed a trend early in this season. We have seen several incidents where players are extending their stick in a cross-checking motion near the head and neck area. In the following video, you will see situations illustrating our concern.

Video Cross-checking at the head or neck area

Position in front of the net is important, everyone is battling for their spot. A defending player is taught to box our opponent out. Allowing the goalie to see the shot. The Department of Player Safety understands that the battle for position is tough and aggressive, but this does not give the right to the defending player to cross check his opponent high in the neck area or to the head.

A good way would be to meet him before he gets to the front of the net, move yourself as a defender to meet the player outside the crease or in front of the net area. Keeping your sticks close to your body, not stretched out in a cross checking position. Keeping good body position between the player and the net, using your body to block him from entering, or if he has already entered the front of the net, using your body to push him out of the way. Keeping your stick down will also allow you to control his stick and direct loose pucks into the corner away from the dangerous area, the front of the net.

When you want to demonstrate something to players, the use of video is the best tool available. For players to change their behaviour, they need to see the images. The video we send with the memorandums are also meant for the players. Please share this link with your players.

Best regards,

Ryan Gardner / Stéphane Auger
Player Safety Officers National League & Swiss League