



## BCRA TECHNICAL BULLETIN 12 – 12

Date: Friday November 30, 2012

TO: Association and Leagues: RiCs and Coach Dr's

From: British Columbia Ringette Association

CC: Chair, Officiating Committee  
Chair, Sport and Athlete Development Committee  
Chair, Coaching Committee

### **SUBJECT: EMPHASIS ON CONTACT RULES & SAFETY**

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BC Ringette places a high priority on the safety of its participants. Most recently our focus on player welfare has seen the development of strategies to address concussion safety. This included the creation of concussion awareness and safety resources provided to coaches and parents. BCRA also recognizes that following and enforcing of game rules plays a significant role in safety, in particular rules around body contact which have a direct affect on the sport's ability to prevent injuries like concussions. For this reason, BCRA is directing one-ice officials place an emphasis on the enforcement of body contact rules and providing the following information to all members:

Ringette is an invasion and collision sport that draws similarities to basketball and non body checking hockey. There is a degree of contact amongst the players on the playing surface. Unlike full contact hockey and football, the contact is not for gaining advantage of space, possession of ball / puck / ring. Contact **is not** permitted to separate the ring from the ring carrier.

Outlined below are 4 principles that govern the game of ringette when dealing with those instances such as picks, screens, stick checks, and when a ring carrier takes space past a defending player.

These 4 basic Principles apply to players with the ring as well as to those without it. Differing circumstances such as maturation of player, skill and skating ability, and experience level may change the degree of responsibility slightly, but the Principals are always valid.

#### **4 Basic Principals to consider before contact between players in some situations occurs:**

- 1) Every player is entitled to occupy any vacant space on the ice  
(in areas in which the player is permitted to play)
- 2) Every player has the responsibility to avoid body contact.
- 3) A player may move to vacant ice provided that player does not initiate contact with an opponent, and moving opponents are given an opportunity to avoid contact.
- 4) A moving player who recognizes a situation where contact might occur must attempt to take action to avoid it.

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## Corollaries / Consequences

- A defending player may move to any defensive position provided the ring carrier is given time or space to take action to avoid a collision.
- The ring carrier must not skate into a defending player who has legally taken a position.
- Team-mates of a ring carrier have to assume most of the responsibility for avoiding body contact with the defending players who are attempting to check the ring carrier.
- Screens and picks must be set in a reasonable manner giving defending players an opportunity to see them and avoid contact.

## Checking:

When two players are exerting moderate force with neither gaining an advantage a penalty assessment would be unwarranted. For example, when two opposing players are skating in the attacking zone the ring carrier wants to skate toward the next zone and the defender wants to prevent that action, with both engaged in moderate force with neither changing the directing the other player.

When an opponent is chasing the ring carrier in an attempt to execute a stick check, the two players will be very close to each other and their bodies are naturally going to touch each other. Going back to the Basic Principles, BOTH players have the responsibility to avoid forceful body contact (principle 2). The checker has the right to get into position to stick check (without causing forceful body contact) and the ring carrier has the right to skate on open ice to avoid being checked.

## Ring Carrier going by a defender:

Ring Carrier: Objective to get past defender without causing body contact

Defender: Objective is to protect ice space without causing body contact.

BOTH: are aware of the other's intentions and take the necessary precautions to avoid body contact.

## Screens and Picks:

The Stationary position assumed by the player setting the screen or pick must be a reasonable playing position. Within a player distance away no part of that player (hand, hip, arm, leg, foot, stick) may be extended into the path of the opponent.

Visit [www.bcringette.org](http://www.bcringette.org) for more information on participant / athlete wellbeing such as BCRA's Kid's and Concussions: "What Parents Need to Know" & "Coaches' Action Plan". Ringette Canada's Points of Emphasis may be found under officiating.



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