



**CANADIAN ACADEMY OF SPORT MEDICINE
ACADÉMIE CANADIENNE DE MÉDECINE DU SPORT**
“Committed to Excellence • L’excellence dans la pratique”

The Canadian Academy of Sport Medicine (CASM) RE-EMPHASIZES THE
NEED TO CONTROL VIOLENCE IN HOCKEY

Ottawa, March 29th, 2004.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Canadian Academy of Sport Medicine (CASM) today called for reforms in hockey in order to effectively deal with on-ice violence. Recent incidents in the National Hockey League (NHL) continue to bring attention to the need for change in the game at all levels in order to eliminate uncontrolled violence, address player safety and enhance the integrity of the sport in the public eye.

“Hockey is an exciting, and highly entertaining game,” said Dr. Kelly Brett, Chair of the CASM Sport Safety Subcommittee on Hockey. “It is played by millions world wide, and enthusiastically followed by millions more. Unfortunately the game is increasingly perceived as a venue for gratuitous violence, rather than the exciting, fast-paced, and skilful sport that it can be. Our perspective stems from a profound love of the game, a concern for its well-being and the health and safety of its participants.”

“CASM published a Position Statement called *Violence and Injuries in Ice Hockey* in 1988,” noted Dr. Jamie Kissick, past president of CASM. “Many of the issues raised at that time remain valid and continue to be of significant concern.”

“CASM believes that hockey, like all sports, should act as a platform for youth development as well as instil a sense of sportsmanship and fair play among all participants,” states Dr. Julia Alleyne, CASM President. Behaviour in the NHL, the premiere professional hockey league in the world, is frequently emulated by minor hockey players. CASM looks to the NHL to provide leadership by example and eliminate violent activities such as fighting and deliberate attempts to injure from professional hockey. CASM calls for strict rule enforcement, the elimination of fighting, and eradication of all “head-checking” in the game. Fighting results in an automatic ejection from the game in most major sports and in many hockey leagues around the world. The NHL must take this giant step forward and allow the emphasis of this great game to be on speed, skill and player athletic ability.

The Canadian Academy of Sport Medicine (CASM) is an organization of physicians committed to excellence in the practice of medicine as it applies to all aspects of physical activity. CASM’s mission is to be a leader in advancing the art and science of sport medicine, including both health promotion and disease prevention, for the benefit of all Canadians through programs of education, research and service.

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For further information contact Ms. Emily Hall at 613-748-5851 or ehall@casm-acms.org.
To view a copy of the Position Statement, *Violence and Injuries in Ice Hockey*, visit www.casm-acms.org and click on position statements.



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