



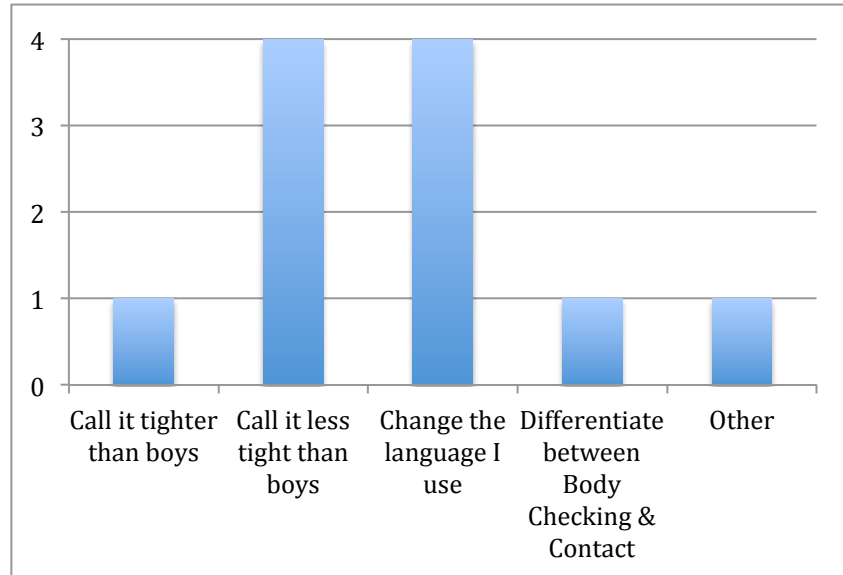
Officials' Perceptions of the Male Versus the Female Game

Hockey Canada has moved away from body checking to non-body-checking to address concussion risk and declining enrolment. With the increase in non-body checking, interesting questions arise related to the female game: how do officials perceive the differences between female and male hockey?

Do officials change how they officiate a female game from a male game?

There were 32 respondents to this survey and 11 of them said "Yes" and 21 said "No"; 66% of

officials treat male and female hockey similarly. The 11 "Yes" respondents were asked how they call the female game differently with the main answers being "call it less tight" (4/11) and "use different language" (4/11).



These results are interesting for the suggestion that

officials who change the way they call the female game think they should call the female game less tightly than the boys' game. Mark Alward and Ross MacKeen (VPO and RIC of Hockey Winnipeg) are pleased that 66% of officials say they do not change how they officiated female hockey and agree that the "officials should apply the same Hockey Canada standard to all games regardless of gender."

How similar is the female game to the male game with or without body checking?

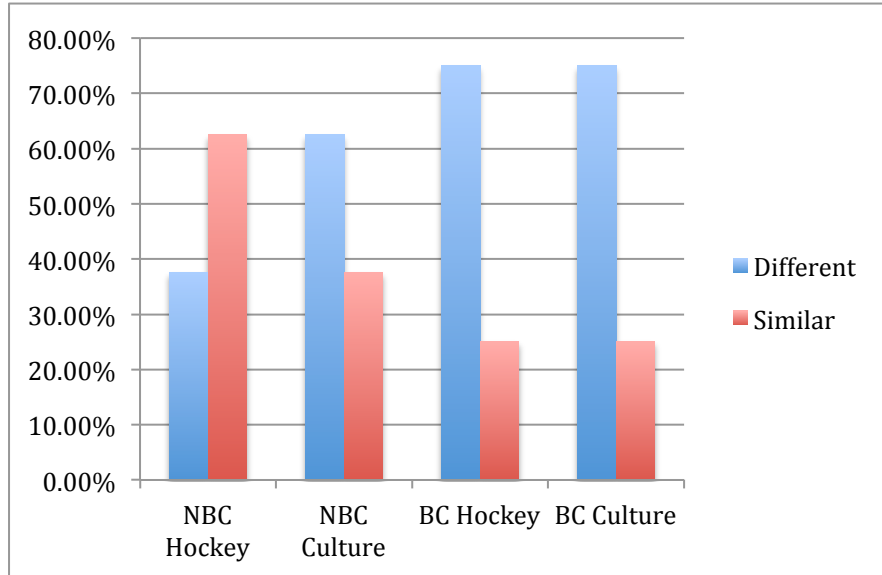
Officials stated how similar or different female hockey is through 4 questions: How similar is female hockey...

- ...to male non-body checking (NBC) hockey?
- ...to body checking (BC) male hockey?
- ...culture to NBC hockey culture?
- ...culture to BC hockey culture?

The graph on the next page shows the percentage of officials who rated each comparison as different or similar.

From these results, two conclusions can be made. First, regardless of NBC or BC, the culture of male and female hockey is seen as different. This suggests that there is a

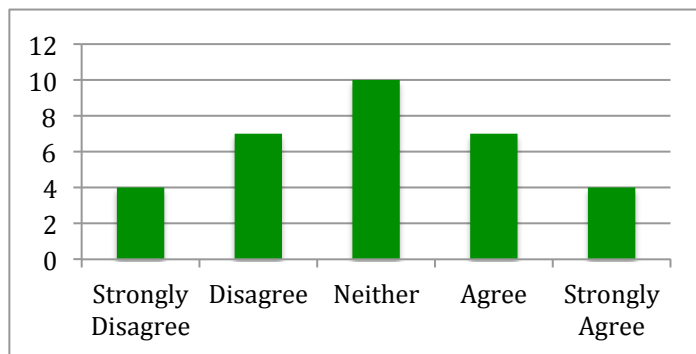
difference in how players interact, how coaches coach, how fans see the game, which is independent of whether there is NBC or BC. Second, NBC Male Hockey is seen as, overall, more similar to female hockey than BC Hockey is to female



hockey. This suggests that body checking remains a major influence on the overall differences between BC hockey and female/NBC hockey.

Should Female Hockey allow Body-Checking?

This question seems to occur regularly in “water-cooler” conversations but never gains traction as a serious policy change; given the changes to the male game with NBC becoming common, female hockey is unlikely to adopt body checking. This survey asked officials to agree or disagree with “Body-Checking should be allowed in female hockey.” The results suggest that officials are evenly split in their opinions as the disagree-agree spectrum (see green graph to the left) is perfectly balanced.



Questions about Officials’ Development

There were 3 other outcomes from this survey that related to official development:

- 91% of officials felt prepared to understand the difference between body checking and body contact.
- Officials felt more prepared to officiate NBC hockey (71%) than BC hockey (53%).
- Officials felt more prepared to officiate male hockey (78%) than female hockey (59%).