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Insight Grant 2019

Spectator Violence in Youth Hockey in Canada

Drawing on qualitative interviews with 60 adult participants involved in Canadian youth hockey as parents, referees, coaches, and managers, as well as legal and media files on 65 cases of spectator violence, this study examines spectator violence, harassment, and aggression in ice hockey at youth playing levels in Canada. Specifically, this study examines the different forms that spectator violence takes in Canadian youth hockey, what commonly occurs, who the common perpetrators and targets of spectator aggression are, how prevalent different forms of spectator violence are, why spectator violence occurs, what the consequences of spectator violence are particularly on youth participation rates in ice hockey, and what measures can be taken to better prevent spectator violence in youth sports in Canada.