



USA Hockey, Inc.
1775 Bob Johnson Drive
Colorado Springs, Colorado
80906-4090
719-576-USAH
Fax 719-538-1160
usah@usahockey.org
www.usahockey.com

DATE: December 5, 2003

TO: District Referees-in-Chief
District Coaches-in-Chief
District Risk Managers
District Registrars
Affiliate Association Presidents

SUBJECT: **Protective Equipment Agreement –**
Canadian (HC) teams playing in the U.S. &
USA Hockey teams playing in Canada

Per a standing agreement between USA Hockey and Hockey Canada (HC), the following policy regarding protective equipment remains in effect, modified for applicable rule changes.

CANADIAN TEAMS PLAYING IN THE UNITED STATES

Canadian players must wear the following Hockey Canada mandatory equipment:

1. **Hockey Skates**
2. **CSA Approved Helmet**
(All age classifications)
3. **CSA Approved Face Mask (with color-coded CHA sticker)**
(Full mask – Types 1 (white) or 5 (green) for player over age 10.)
(Full mask – Types 2 (orange) or 6 (red) for player age 10 or younger.)
(Full mask – Type 3 (blue) for goalkeeper, any age.)
(Minimum of a visor – Type 4 (yellow) for Junior and Senior age classifications. Note that a Type 4 visor or a full face mask is optional for male adult recreational. If a visor is worn by a male adult recreational player, it must be Type 4.)
4. **BNQ Approved Throat Protector**
(For players in all Female and Youth classifications)

NOTE: HC rules do not mandate the wearing of a mouthpiece at any age classification where a full face mask is required. A mouthpiece is required for any Junior player wearing a visor.



USA HOCKEY TEAMS PLAYING IN CANADA

American players must wear the following USA Hockey mandatory equipment:

1. **Hockey Skates**
2. **HECC Approved Helmet**
(Youths, Girls/Women below Adult, and Juniors below age 18)
(Juniors age 18+ may sign a waiver to wear a non-HECC approved helmet)
(Adults may wear a non-HECC approved helmet, no waiver required)
3. **HECC Approved Face Mask**
(Full face mask – Youths, Girls/Women below Adult, and Juniors below age 18)
(Juniors age 18+ players may sign a waiver to wear a HECC-approved half shield)
(Juniors age 18+ Goalkeepers may sign a waiver to wear a non-HECC approved face mask or a form fitted face mask with frontal wire and back skull plate.)
(Adult players may wear a non-HECC approved face mask or no face mask, no waiver)
(Adult goalkeepers age 18+ may sign a waiver to wear a form-fitted mask with a back skull plate.)
4. **Non-Clear Internal Mouthpiece**
(Youths-12-or-under and up, Girls/Women below Adult, and Juniors below age 18)
(Juniors age 18+ may sign a waiver to be released from this requirement.)
(Optional for Adults - Male and Female.)

NOTE: USA Hockey playing rules do not mandate the wearing of a neck guard at any age classification.

The normal insurance coverage will be considered to be in effect as long as the injured participant was wearing the proper protective equipment as mandated by the organization (HC or USA Hockey) with which he/she is registered.

Body-checking - Any game played on U.S. soil which would be non-checking under USA Hockey rules must be non-checking.

Please note that all other playing rules of the host country are in effect for games played in that country, except when U.S. teams are playing on U.S. soil in Canadian-based leagues using HC rules under league direction, and vice versa.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding this policy.



Bob Hayden
Playing Rules Committee Chair

cc: Insurance Providers, Dr. Alan Ashare,
Karen Hackman, Matt Leaf