



The Referee's Crease

A Newsletter for ALLIANCE Hockey Officials

September 2009

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Starting last season, HC tweaked the rules relating to protective equipment by drawing a distinction between the helmet & visor on one hand and neck guards & mouth guards on the other hand. At your recertification clinics, you will get a chart breaking down how you are to deal with protective equipment problems.

If a violation arises on the ice, trying to picture that chart in your head may be challenging. Hopefully, the following will help you understand the reasoning behind the rules and make it easier to remember.

If it helps you to keep it straight, group the equipment types. You can think of the helmet and facemask as primary safeguards. These are universal at minor hockey regardless of your organization – Alliance, OMHA, USA, etc. Mouth guards and neck guards can be thought of as secondary safeguards – their use is not universal.

With respect to primary safeguards, the greatest risk of injury is not wearing one, or wearing an uncertified one, while participating in play. As such, safety requires that play be stopped immediately. And because the player should undoubtedly know of the problem, you go directly to a minor (R 3.6 (c), (e)). Both the team and the player take a hit in this situation. The player sits and the team goes on the PK.

Every risk level below either actually or effectively not wearing a primary safeguard gets the team a warning before a penalty is assessed.

The first step down the risk ladder is if either of the primary safeguards is not being worn or is worn improperly while on the bench (R 3.6 (b) Note 4). The team is warned before a minor for Ineligible Player is given. The team and the 2nd player both take a hit here.

The next step down the risk ladder is if a player wears a helmet / facemask improperly while on the ice. There is some degree of protection, but it is reduced. The team gets a warning before you give the next offending player a misconduct - M14 (R 3.6 (d)). Only the 2nd player takes a hit here. The team does not lose any on ice strength.

Rules related to secondary safeguards only apply to them being properly worn while on the ice. Violations of rules related to the wearing of secondary safeguards on the ice all call for a team warning first and then a misconduct (M14) (R 3.6 (f), (g)). Only 2nd players take a hit for secondary safeguards.

As for the mechanics of warnings, in every case, you are encouraged to give the warning directly to the coach.

COMMENTS / QUESTIONS

The idea behind this newsletter is to help you with your games, so we'd be happy to hear how we can help. Email us at refscreeze@alliancehockey.com.

Review Board: Lorne Campbell, Rick Morphew, Marshall Copp, Sean Reid, Dave Beech, Doug Ryerson and Chris Perkins.

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