

Rule 304 Protective Equipment

(Note) Although some protective equipment is not mandatory in all age classifications, USA Hockey strongly recommends that all players and goalkeepers in all age classifications properly wear an internal mouthpiece, a HECC approved helmet and a HECC approved full facemask for all games and practices.

- (a) Each participant is personally responsible to wear protective equipment for all games, warm-ups and practices. Such equipment should include gloves, shin pads, shoulder pads, elbow pads, hip pads or padded hockey pants, protective cup, tendon pads plus all head protective equipment as required by USA Hockey rules. It is recommended that all protective equipment be designed specifically for ice hockey.

All protective equipment, except gloves, padded hockey pants, helmet/facemask and goalkeeper's leg guards, must be worn under the uniform. For violation of this rule after a warning by the Referee a minor penalty shall be imposed.

(Note) Players, including goalkeepers, violating this rule shall not be permitted to participate in the game until such equipment has been corrected or removed.

In all classifications, if the goalkeeper's helmet/facemask comes off during play, the Referee or Linesman shall stop play immediately.

In all classifications excluding Adults, if a player's helmet/facemask comes off during play, the Referee or Linesman shall stop play immediately. The player shall be ruled off the ice and may not participate in the game until completion of the ensuing face-off.

A minor penalty shall be assessed to a goalkeeper or player who causes a stoppage of play by deliberately removing his helmet/facemask during play.

In Adult classifications a player, excluding the goalkeeper, whose helmet/facemask has come off his head during play may not resume play until his helmet/facemask has been properly replaced. A player not conforming to this rule shall be assessed a minor penalty.

- (b) It is compulsory for all players in all classifications to wear a hockey helmet, with helmet strap properly fastened. (See Rule 304(d) Note.)

It is mandatory that all players wear a HECC approved helmet (including ear protection) with the following exception:

Players in the Adult age classification must wear a hockey helmet (HECC approved or not) with helmet strap properly fastened.

All players on the players' and the penalty bench must wear the protective helmet/facemask while in the bench area. For a violation of this rule, after a warning by the Referee, a misconduct penalty shall be assessed to the offending player.

- (c) All players, including goalkeepers, in the Pee Wee through Midget (including High School) and in the Girls/Women 12 & under through 19 & under age classifications are required to wear a colored (nonclear) internal mouthpiece that covers all the remaining teeth of one jaw, customarily the upper.

For the first violation of this rule, the team shall be issued a warning. A misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player or goalkeeper of that team for a subsequent violation during that game.

It is strongly recommended, in all classifications, that all players wear a mouthpiece form fitted by a dentist.

- (d) All players, including goalkeepers, in all age classifications below Adults, are required to wear a facemask certified by HECC, plus any chin protection that accompanies the facemask.

(Note) Any helmet or facemask that is altered except as permitted in Rule 304(b) shall be deemed to be illegal equipment and shall not be allowed to be used in a game. (This shall include helmets from which a part has been cut or removed, facemasks from which the chin-cup has been removed or any other such alterations from the original manufacturing specifications.)

- (e) All players must wear the required protective equipment in the manner for which it is designed. For violation of this rule a misconduct penalty shall be imposed.