

PLAYER SAFETY

Neck Laceration Protector Requirement

Starting August 1, players in all age classifications, other than adults, are required to wear neck laceration protection in all games and practices.

While players in the adult age classification are excluded from the requirement, USA Hockey continues to recommend neck laceration protectors for those playing adult hockey and remains steadfast in encouraging the use of cut-resistant socks, sleeves or undergarments for all players and on-ice officials.

Here are some key points to assist in this transition.

CHOOSING THE BEST NECK LACERATION PROTECTOR

Choose a neck laceration protector with cut-resistant material that covers as much of the exposed neck area as possible.

The protector should be worn properly without any alteration.

HOW COACHES AND PARENTS CAN HELP

Coaches and parents will play an important role in helping make sure that players and officials are properly equipped before heading out to the ice for both practice and games, including wearing appropriate neck laceration protection that is not altered.

IN-GAME ACTION

Rule enforcement will be the same as any other protective equipment violation - the first violation will result in a player substitution and a team warning. Any subsequent protective equipment violations by the team during the game will result in a misconduct penalty.

If a player loses their neck laceration protector during play, it

VIDEO:

USA Hockey Congress Approves Requirement For Neck Laceration Protection



is treated the same as a mouthpiece. Play will continue until the next stoppage, then the player must replace the equipment or undergo a substitution.

Hanging throat protectors for goaltenders are not designed to prevent lacerations from a skate blade and are not a substitute for a neck laceration protector. ☆