



## **NYH Player Safety and Neck Guards**

After several parents asked about the use of neck guards in youth hockey, the Navy Youth Hockey Board of Directors looked into this matter and spoke with officials from USA Hockey to determine how to approach neck guard use with our players.

Statement from USA Hockey....

*"USA Hockey is very concerned about neck lacerations and the potential catastrophic involvement of arteries, veins and nerves. To date, there is sparse data to describe the prevalence of such an occurrence, the severity, or whether or not a neck-laceration protector (neck guard) reduces risk or severity.*

*Based on a survey of USA Hockey players, neck lacerations from a skate blade are rarely serious, but the potential for severe consequences due to nerve, artery or vein involvement remain a concern. In addition, current neck laceration protector designs do not eliminate the risk of a neck laceration.*

*USA Hockey recommends that players who decide to wear a neck laceration protector, choose a design that cover as much of the neck area as possible. Further research & improved standards testing will determine the effectiveness of these devices"*

As a Board we reviewed USA Hockey's position and decided to not mandate the use of neck guards across the club based on USA Hockey's position. In addition to the above information, USA Hockey has a [neck guard laceration presentation](#) you can review to help make an informed decision for your child.

Should you have any questions or further concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to one of the board members.