



USA HOCKEY, INC.
PLAYING RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL FORM



RULE NUMBER: USA Hockey Official Rules: 303 (b),
304 (a),(b), (e), (g) and (h)
501 (c)

Junior Hockey Rules:
303 (b),
304 (a),(b), (e), (g) and (h)
501 (c)

Official Rules of Sled Hockey: Sled Hockey Equipment Rules

CURRENT RULE READS ([click here](#) to access electronic rulebook):

PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Amend to Read

Add

Delete

Please see attached Rule proposal regarding Neck Laceration Protection showing existing rules along with edits to existing rules.

PLEASE EXPLAIN REASON FOR CHANGE:

To require that all players wearing neck laceration protection during all USA Hockey games and practices.

As there are no specific standards approved at this time, the proposed rule requires that it be designed for protection from neck lacerations.

The proposed rule applies to ALL age classifications, including Junior and Adult Hockey.

The proposed rule also recommends that game officials wear a neck laceration protector.

In addition to neck laceration protection, the proposed rule recommends that players wear cut-resistant socks, sleeves or undergarments.

Like a player's or goalkeeper's helmet, the proposed rule includes what should occur if the neck laceration protector comes off during play.

Please print legibly or type all pertinent information.

You may use the back of this form for additional space or to present rationale for proposed change.

USA Hockey Official Rules and Casebook of Ice Hockey

CURRENT RULE	PROPOSED RULE CHANGE
<p>Rule 303 Goalkeeper's Equipment (b) It is compulsory for all goalkeepers to wear helmets and full facemasks. Hanging throat/neck laceration protectors are recommended. No form fitted facemasks shall be permitted.</p>	<p>Rule 303 Goalkeeper's Equipment (b) It is compulsory for all goalkeepers to wear helmets and full facemasks. <u>Neck laceration protectors designed for that purpose are required.</u> Hanging throat/neck laceration protectors are recommended. No form fitted facemasks shall be permitted.</p>
<p>Rule 304 Protective Equipment <i>(Note) Not all protective equipment is mandatory in all age classifications. However, if not mandated by rule, USA Hockey strongly recommends that all skaters 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.</i></p> <p>(a) Each player 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.</p> <p>(b) All protective equipment, except gloves, padded hockey pants, helmet/ facemask and goalkeeper's leg guards, must be worn under the uniform.</p> <p><i>(Note) Players, including goalkeepers, violating this rule shall not be permitted to participate in the game until such equipment has been corrected or removed.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>(e) In all classifications, including Adults, if a skater's helmet/ facemask comes off during play, the officials shall stop play immediately. The skater shall be ruled off the ice and may not participate in the game until completion of the ensuing face-off.</p> <p>In all classifications, if the goalkeeper's helmet/facemask comes off during play, the officials shall stop play immediately. However, the goalkeeper shall not be ruled off the ice prior to the face-off.</p>	<p>Rule 304 Protective Equipment <i>(Note) Not all protective equipment is mandatory in all age classifications. However, if not mandated by rule, USA Hockey strongly recommends that all skaters 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.</i></p> <p>(a) Each player 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 <u>and neck</u> protective equipment as required by USA Hockey rules. It is recommended that all protective equipment be designed specifically for ice hockey.</p> <p>(b) All protective equipment, except gloves, padded hockey pants, helmet/ facemask, <u>neck laceration protector</u>, and goalkeeper's leg guards, must be worn under the uniform.</p> <p><i>(Note) Players, including goalkeepers, violating this rule shall not be permitted to participate in the game until such equipment has been corrected or removed.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>(e) In all classifications, including Adults, if a skater's helmet/ facemask <u>or neck laceration protector</u> comes off during play, the officials shall stop play immediately. The skater shall be ruled off the ice and may not participate in the game until completion of the ensuing face-off.</p> <p>In all classifications, if the goalkeeper's helmet/facemask <u>or neck laceration protector</u> comes off during play, the officials shall stop play immediately. However, the goalkeeper shall not be ruled off the ice prior to the face-off.</p>

<p>A minor penalty for delay of game shall be assessed to a goalkeeper or skater who causes a stoppage of play by deliberately removing their helmet/facemask during play.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>(g) USA Hockey recommends that players wear a neck laceration protector, choosing a design that covers as much of the neck area as possible.</p> <p>(h) All players who wear the required, or recommended, protective equipment must wear it in the manner for which it is designed. For violation of this rule, following a team warning, a misconduct penalty for an equipment violation shall be imposed.</p>	<p>A minor penalty for delay of game shall be assessed to a goalkeeper or skater who causes a stoppage of play by deliberately removing their helmet/facemask <u>or neck laceration protector</u> during play.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>(g) USA Hockey recommends that players <u>All players, including goalkeepers, in all age classifications are required to</u> wear a neck laceration protector <u>designed for that purpose and</u>, choosing a design that covers as much of the neck area as possible <u>and are recommended to wear cut-resistant socks, sleeves or undergarments.</u></p> <p>(h) All players who wear the required, or recommended, protective equipment must wear it in the manner for which it is designed <u>without any alterations.</u> For violation of this rule, following a team warning, a misconduct penalty for an equipment violation shall be imposed.</p>
<p>Rule 501 Appointment of Officials</p> <p>(c) All On-Ice Officials shall wear black trousers and an official sweater with the current USA Hockey officiating crest on the left chest of the sweater during all games. Any other crest that is worn must be located on either arm of the sweater. The wearing of nameplates and/or numbers shall be regulated by each League.</p> <p>Each official is required to wear a black hockey helmet, with chin strap properly fastened, and a non-altered halfshield visor properly attached to their helmets.</p>	<p>Rule 501 Appointment of Officials</p> <p>(c) All On-Ice Officials shall wear black trousers and an official sweater with the current USA Hockey officiating crest on the left chest of the sweater during all games. Any other crest that is worn must be located on either arm of the sweater. The wearing of nameplates and/or numbers shall be regulated by each League.</p> <p>Each official is required to wear a black hockey helmet, with chin strap properly fastened, and a non-altered halfshield visor properly attached to their helmets. <u>All officials are recommended to wear a neck laceration protector designed for that purpose.</u></p>
<p><i>Also, will need to have edits and/or additions made to the Casebook situations.</i></p> <p><i>See Rule 303, Situation 5, Rule 304, Situations 7 and 18-21, and Rule 501, Situation 3.</i></p>	

USA Hockey Official Rules of Ice Hockey -- Junior Hockey Edition

CURRENT RULE	PROPOSED RULE CHANGE
<p>Rule 303 Goalkeeper's Equipment</p> <p>(b) It is compulsory for all goalkeepers to wear helmets and full facemasks. Hanging throat/neck laceration protectors are recommended. No form fitted facemasks shall be permitted, with the following exception:</p> <p>USA Hockey strongly recommends that all goalkeepers wear HECC approved headgear. However, any such goalkeeper, having reached the age of majority and having signed the proper waiver, shall be permitted to wear a full mask of their choice or a form fitted facemask with a frontal wire insert, providing such mask includes a back skull plate in lieu of a HECC-approved helmet. The signed waiver must be made available to Game Officials prior to each game, upon request. In addition, a copy of the signed waiver must be filed with the USA Hockey Junior Liaison prior to the start of the regular season.</p>	<p>Rule 303 Goalkeeper's Equipment</p> <p>(b) It is compulsory for all goalkeepers to wear helmets and full facemasks. <u>Neck laceration protectors designed for that purpose are required.</u> Hanging throat/neck laceration protectors are recommended. No form fitted facemasks shall be permitted, with the following exception:</p> <p>USA Hockey strongly recommends that all goalkeepers wear HECC approved headgear. However, any such goalkeeper, having reached the age of majority and having signed the proper waiver, shall be permitted to wear a full mask of their choice or a form fitted facemask with a frontal wire insert, providing such mask includes a back skull plate in lieu of a HECC-approved helmet. The signed waiver must be made available to Game Officials prior to each game, upon request. In addition, a copy of the signed waiver must be filed with the USA Hockey Junior Liaison prior to the start of the regular season.</p>
<p>Rule 304 Protective Equipment</p> <p><i>(Note) Not all protective equipment is mandatory in all age classifications. However, 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.</i></p> <p>(a) Each participant, and the team, 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.</p> <p>(b) All protective equipment, except gloves, padded hockey pants, helmet/facemask and goalkeeper's leg guards, must be worn under the uniform.</p> <p>For violation of this rule after a warning by the Referee, a minor penalty for an equipment violation shall be imposed.</p>	<p>Rule 304 Protective Equipment</p> <p><i>(Note) Not all protective equipment is mandatory in all age classifications. However, 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.</i></p> <p>(a) Each participant, and the team, 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 <u>and neck</u> protective equipment as required by USA Hockey rules. It is recommended that all protective equipment be designed specifically for ice hockey.</p> <p>(b) All protective equipment, except gloves, padded hockey pants, helmet/facemask, <u>neck laceration protector</u>, and goalkeeper's leg guards, must be worn under the uniform.</p> <p>For violation of this rule after a warning by the Referee, a minor penalty for an equipment violation shall be imposed.</p>

<p><i>(Note) Players, including goalkeepers, violating this rule shall not be permitted to participate in the game until such equipment has been corrected or removed.</i></p> <p>*****</p> <p>(e) A player, excluding the goalkeeper, whose helmet/facemask comes off during play must immediately leave the ice surface and may not return to play unless they are able to properly put their helmet back on with the chin strap fastened. Should the referee feel that the player who has lost their helmet is in a vulnerable position and allowing play to continue might lead to an injury of the player with no helmet, the referee must stop play immediately. If play is stopped for this reason, the face-off shall take place at the nearest allowable location (last play).</p> <p>If the goalkeeper's helmet/facemask comes off during play, the play shall be stopped immediately regardless of any imminent scoring opportunity. A minor penalty shall be assessed to any goalkeeper who purposely removes their helmet/facemask during play unless in the course of a breakaway in which case a penalty shot/optional minor shall be awarded.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>(g) All players who wear the required, or recommended, protective equipment must wear it in the manner for which it is designed. For violation of this rule, following a team warning, a misconduct penalty for an equipment violation shall be imposed.</p>	<p><i>(Note) Players, including goalkeepers, violating this rule shall not be permitted to participate in the game until such equipment has been corrected or removed.</i></p> <p>*****</p> <p>(e) A player, excluding the goalkeeper, whose helmet/facemask comes off during play must immediately leave the ice surface and may not return to play unless they are able to properly put their helmet back on with the chin strap fastened. Should the referee feel that the player who has lost their helmet <u>or neck laceration protector</u> is in a vulnerable position and allowing play to continue might lead to an injury of the player with no helmet <u>or neck laceration protector</u>, the referee must stop play immediately. If play is stopped for this reason, the face-off shall take place at the nearest allowable location (last play).</p> <p>If the goalkeeper's helmet/facemask <u>or neck laceration protector</u> comes off during play, the play shall be stopped immediately regardless of any imminent scoring opportunity. A minor penalty shall be assessed to any goalkeeper who purposely removes their helmet/facemask <u>or neck laceration protector</u> during play unless in the course of a breakaway in which case a penalty shot/optional minor shall be awarded.</p> <p>*****</p> <p><u>(g) All players, including goalkeepers, in all age classifications are required to wear a neck laceration protector designed for that purpose and that covers as much of the neck area as possible and are recommended to wear cut-resistant socks, sleeves or undergarments.</u></p> <p>(g)<u>(h)</u> All players who wear the required, or recommended, protective equipment must wear it in the manner for which it is designed <u>without any alterations</u>.</p> <p>For violation of this rule, following a team warning, a misconduct penalty for an equipment violation shall be imposed.</p> <p><i>Renumber subparagraph (h) as subparagraph (i).</i></p>
<p>Rule 501 Appointment of Officials</p> <p>(c) All On-Ice Officials shall wear black trousers and an official sweater with the current USA Hockey officiating crest or the league sanctioned crest on the left chest of the sweater during all games. Any other crest that is worn must</p>	<p>Rule 501 Appointment of Officials</p> <p>(c) All On-Ice Officials shall wear black trousers and an official sweater with the current USA Hockey officiating crest or the league sanctioned crest on the left chest of the sweater during all games. Any other crest that is worn must</p>

be located on either arm of the sweater. The wearing of nameplates shall be regulated by each League.

Each official is required to wear a black hockey helmet, with chin strap properly fastened at all times (with the exception of the national anthem), and a halfshield visor properly attached to their helmets.

be located on either arm of the sweater. The wearing of nameplates shall be regulated by each League.

Each official is required to wear a black hockey helmet, with chin strap properly fastened at all times (with the exception of the national anthem), and a halfshield visor properly attached to their helmets. **All officials are recommended to wear a neck laceration protector designed for that purpose.**

USA Hockey Official Rules of Sled Hockey

CURRENT RULE	PROPOSED RULE CHANGE
<p>SLED HOCKEY EQUIPMENT RULES</p> <p><u>General Rules</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mouth guards are strongly encouraged for every player in any division. - Neck guards are strongly encouraged for every player in any division. - Hockey Pants are not required. - All other normal hockey equipment rules and guidelines apply as outlined in Official Playing Rules of USA Hockey. <p>Reasonable modifications to general hockey equipment rules may be permissible if the player must have these modifications in order to participate because of their disability. Any modification must be requested and notified to USA Hockey in advance of participation involving the modification.</p> <p>The use of prosthetics or other equipment made of hard or unyielding material that is not completely covered by protective equipment must be covered on all exterior surfaces with no less than ½ inch thick, high-density, closed-cell polyurethane or an alternate material of the same minimum thickness and similar physical properties to protect an injury.</p> <p>In addition to USA Hockey typical hockey equipment rules, the following apply to sled specific equipment.</p> <p>Sled Player Equipment (Mobility Devices) Player Equipment shall be defined as the sled, skag, bucket, skate holder, skate blade, sticks and picks.</p>	<p>SLED HOCKEY EQUIPMENT RULES</p> <p><u>General Rules</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mouth guards are strongly encouraged for every player in any division. — Neck guards are strongly encouraged for every player in any division. - <u>All players, including goalkeepers, in all age classifications are required to wear a neck laceration protector designed for that purpose and that covers as much of the neck area as possible and are recommended to wear cut-resistant socks, sleeves or undergarments.</u> - Hockey Pants are not required. - All other normal hockey equipment rules and guidelines apply as outlined in Official Playing Rules of USA Hockey. <p>Reasonable modifications to general hockey equipment rules may be permissible if the player must have these modifications in order to participate because of their disability. Any modification must be requested and notified to USA Hockey in advance of participation involving the modification.</p> <p>The use of prosthetics or other equipment made of hard or unyielding material that is not completely covered by protective equipment must be covered on all exterior surfaces with no less than ½ inch thick, high-density, closed-cell polyurethane or an alternate material of the same minimum thickness and similar physical properties to protect an injury.</p> <p>In addition to USA Hockey typical hockey equipment rules, the following apply to sled specific equipment.</p> <p>Sled Player Equipment (Mobility Devices) Player Equipment shall be defined as the sled, skag, bucket, skate holder, skate blade, sticks and picks.</p>