



## Reminders & Clarifications: Helmets & Facial Protectors

Please review the following interpretations regarding helmets and facial protectors.

### Removing a Helmet or Undoing a Chinstrap:

At times, helmets or facial protectors may come off or be removed prior to, during or after a fight or altercation. The following clarifications are intended to provide the appropriate applications of the rules, in such situations.

1. Should a player voluntarily undo their own chin strap to incite or challenge an opponent to a fight and no fight occurs or the helmet does not come off during the fight, the player will be assessed a **Misconduct Penalty**, as per *rule 10.6 (d)*.
2. Should #1 occur and the helmet does come off prior to or during the fight, the player will be assessed a **Gross Misconduct**, as outlined in *rule 10.6 (f) iii*. When the Gross Misconduct is assessed, the Misconduct in #1 will **NOT** apply.
3. Should a player or players, in order to circumvent the guidelines of #1 or #2, choose to voluntarily remove the helmet of their opponent prior to or during a fight, then a **Gross Misconduct** must be assessed to the applicable player(s).

*NOTE: Situations #1 - 3 are specific to incidents where the initial removal of the helmet or chin strap is 'voluntary'. Therefore, the removal of the helmet is not a result of actions related to participating in a fight or altercation, nor has the helmet been removed by unwilling force or action.*

4. At any time (including during a fight), should a player grab an opponent's helmet, chinstrap, or facial protector; at the Referee's discretion, they shall assess the appropriate penalty under one of the three (3) following options, as per *Rule 7.1*:
  - a. A grab of the helmet, chinstrap or facial protector with minimal to moderate force will result in a **Minor Penalty**, as per *Rule 7.1 (a)*.
  - b. A grab of the helmet, chinstrap or facial protector with a high degree of violence or 'a' (above) causing the player to be injured, will result in a **Major Penalty and Game Misconduct**, as per *Rule 7.1 (b)*.
  - c. A grab of an opponent's helmet, chinstrap or facial protector is used to gain an advantage, inflict punishment or deliberately attempt to injure an opponent, then a **Match Penalty** must be assessed, as per *Rule 7.1 (c) ii*. Also, if the player uses a helmet or facial protector as a weapon or to deliberately injure or attempt to injure their opponent, then the Referee shall assess a **Match Penalty** under *Rule 7.1 (c) iv*.

*NOTE: If the Referee determines that the helmet(s) came off incidentally during a fight or altercation, no penalties need to be assessed under Rule 7.1.*

## Helmet Certifications

In accordance with Hockey Canada playing rule 3.6 (b):

While on the ice, including pre-game warm-ups, all players, including goaltenders, shall wear a CSA-certified hockey helmet, to which a CSA-certified facial protector must be securely attached and not altered in any way (including the removal of ear guards).

For violations of the above **during pre-game warm up**, the Referee shall report the incident to the League by way of the Game Incident Report system and advise the team of the illegal equipment prior to the opening face-off, to have it replaced, without a penalty being assessed as per, *Interpretation 9 of Rule 10.6 (a) / Rule 3.6*.

If such a situation is brought to the Referee's attention during the game and the helmet or facial protector is found to not be certified, a **Minor penalty** shall be assessed and the uncertified piece of equipment must be removed from the game / replaced, as per *Rule 10.6 (a) / Rule 3.6*. If after assessing a minor penalty, a player or goaltender refuses to replace the illegal equipment or continues to play with the illegal piece of equipment, then a **Gross Misconduct** shall be assessed, as per *Rule 10.6 (f) i*.

NOTE: In order to properly enforce these rules, officials must ensure that they also comply to these guidelines. While, officials are not mentioned within Rule 3.6, the Hockey Canada's Officiating Program (HCOP) Manual states that a 'Black CSA certified helmet (with Sticker in place) and CSA Visor' are included within an official's minimum equipment requirements (Section 1 – Equipment – HCOP Manual 'Officiating Duties).

When a participant wears an uncertified piece of equipment, they are susceptible to the potential forfeiture of their personal liability insurance regarding any injury they may incur, while wearing the illegal piece of equipment, regardless of whether this was observed at the time by the on-ice officials. However, such forfeiture of insurance coverage only applies to the wearer of the illegal piece of equipment and does not apply to any other participants within that game. Players, Goaltenders and on-ice Officials are ultimately responsible to comply with all safety requirements. Should a team identify that an official does not appear to have a certified piece of equipment, they should bring this to the attention of the League upon the conclusion of the game, not during the game.

Below are two (2) images of CSA stickers for reference to confirmation of certification:

1. Image #1 shows a CSA sticker that is fully intact but faded. This has not been altered, can be identified as a CSA sticker and is therefore permissible. This is an example of the lowest quality condition that would be considered acceptable.
2. Image #2 shows a CSA sticker that is not fully intact, damaged, deteriorated and altered to the point of not being identified as a CSA sticker. This is not acceptable and this piece of equipment would need to be removed from the game and replaced.

Image 1



Allowable

Image 2



Not allowable

## Helmet & Facial Protector Fitting Guidelines

Helmets and facial protectors must be properly fastened and fit at all times. The following guidelines and images outline how a helmet and facial protectors must be worn as a unit.

1. Chin cups (within the facial protector) must be secured and within contact distance of the chin should a player have their mouth open.
2. The facial protector (e.g. cage) must be secured within the 'J-clip' near the ear piece (ear pieces must also be intact), with the cage straps fastened with no slack.
3. Chin straps must be securely fastened (not taped) and within about 1" to 1 ½" or 1 to 2 fingers spacing from the underside of the chin.



The images labelled 'illegal' (above) are examples of a helmet and facial protector being worn but worn improperly. The following issues would need to be corrected:

1. Chin cup and cage straps must be secured
2. Case / facial protector must be secured within 'J-clip.'
3. Chin Strap must be securely fastened.

If after a single warning to a team of a player with their helmet or facial protector being worn improperly, a Misconduct penalty as per *Rule 10.6 (d)*, must be assessed for subsequent violations.

If you have any additional questions please contact the applicable [officiating delivery group member](#) / Coordinator of Player safety for the league in question or contact BC Hockey Referee in Chief Sean Raphael [sraphael@bchockey.net](mailto:sraphael@bchockey.net).