



INFORMATION BULLETIN



BULLETIN NO: 02-04

TO: Minor Hockey Association
Women's Leagues
Junior Leagues
AAA Midget Teams

FROM: Peter Woods, Executive Director

CC: Board of Directors

DATE: August 12, 2009

SUBJECT: Mandatory Mouth guards

As a proactive and safety measure Hockey Manitoba passed a motion at the 2001 Annual General Meeting in May that requires mandatory use of internal mouth guards for all players excluding Senior Hockey that are registered in the Branch.

Players are required to wear mouth guards during all training sessions and game participation. Goaltenders and players that have been fitted with oral braces are not exempt from this ruling and are required to comply.

Members are not required to purchase custom fitted mouth guards from their dentist in order to meet the criteria established for this ruling and are able to use mouth guards purchased through a sporting goods retailer.

In the event player(s) who are participating in leagues that require the use of full face masks fail to wear a mouth guard during game participation, they will be **issued a warning and asked to return to the bench. Both teams will be warned and all subsequent violations will result in a minor penalty** being assessed against the offending player as per Rule 3.6 regarding protective equipment. This also includes players who improperly wear their mouth guard.

For divisions of hockey that allow the wearing of the half visor, the wearing of a mouth guard is compulsory (recommended but optional for Senior hockey). **When a player fails to properly wear a mouth guard at any time on the ice during the game, first offence for that team in the game is a warning to the team subsequent violations result in the player being assessed a misconduct penalty. (Rule 3.6 g)**

Thank you for your support in helping make the game safer for all participants.

Further to the above bulletin:

NOTE TO ALL REFEREES

Please note that in Rule 3.6 re Protective Equipment a player with improper equipment is ruled off the ice until such equipment is deemed acceptable. Therefore if a player is not wearing a "Mouth guard" he/she cannot play until a mouth guard is obtained. The player, if penalized should be ruled off the ice and a substitute player from the ice should be sent to the penalty box to serve the penalty.