



6.46 Protective Equipment – Helmets, Facial Protector, Throat Protectors (Neck

Guards) **EFFECTIVE DATE:** December 1st, 2023 (Branch wide policy)

1. DEFINITIONS

- a. “Helmet” – CSA Certified Hockey Helmet
- b. “Facial Protection” – CSA certified facial protection securely attached to the CSA certified hockey helmet. Includes full face mask and half visor.
- c. “Throat Protector” (neck guard) – BNQ certified throat protector (neck guard)
- d. “Participant” – Players, Coaches, On Ice Instructors/Helpers, Trainers, and on-ice Officials (Minor, Junior, Para, Special Hockey)
- e. “Responsible Individual” – includes Parents, Coaches, Trainers, Managers, and all other Bench Staff, Officials, and Officiating Coaches.
- f. On-Ice – includes all Games (including pre-game warmup), Practices, Skills sessions, etc.

2. PREAMBLE

As the governing body for amateur hockey in Eastern Ontario, Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO) would like to emphasize their commitment to fostering a safe playing environment for all its registered participants including on-ice officials. Hockey Canada Playing Rule 3.6 (b) (Protective Equipment) is clear that all Players must wear a CSA Approved Hockey Helmet to which a certified CSA Approved facial protector must be securely attached **and not altered in any way**. 3.6 (c) states the wearing of a BNQ-certified throat protector (neck guard) is required for all Minor hockey. 3.6 (f) states: If a player is wearing a helmet, facial protector, mouth guard (where applicable) or throat protector improperly, or wearing an uncertified piece of equipment, the Referee will penalize the offending player under Rule 10.6 – Illegal Equipment.

3. POLICY

1. All Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO) registered players and officials are required to wear a CSA certified helmet with a CSA certified facial protector securely and properly attached and BNQ certified throat protectors for all on-ice activities. Players and Officials are prohibited from altering this certified equipment in any manner.

In instances where this certified equipment has been altered the following may apply:

- i. The CSA and BNQ certifications will become void.
- ii. If a player is wearing a helmet, facial protector, mouth guard or throat protector improperly, or wearing an uncertified piece of equipment, the Referee will penalize the offending player under Rule 10.6 – Illegal Equipment.



- iii. If an On-Ice Official has altered their equipment in any manner, the Referee in Chief may sanction the official under HEO policy 6.33.1

2. All “Responsible Individuals” must ensure that all Participants have all the required protective equipment on, secured, worn properly, and not altered in any fashion. Failure to ensure the above has occurred, or simply ignoring a known situation may result in severe sanctions by HEO.

3. Any Participant (other than a player) found to have altered their Protective Equipment in any manner or are not wearing their Protective Equipment properly may face sanctions administered by their League, District or Minor Hockey association. In the case of a Player being found to have altered their Protective Equipment in any manner, or do not wear their Protective Equipment properly, the Player may face additional sanctions from their League, District or Minor Hockey Association. The Player’s Head Coach may also face sanctions by the League, District or Minor Hockey Association for any violations of this policy.

4. As per HEO Policy 6.49 (13) All minor hockey coaches, assistant coaches, on ice volunteer’s/helpers, trainers, etc. who are on the ice at practice must wear a CSA approved hockey helmet securely fastened, and not altered in any fashion. For violation of this section of the policy, please refer to HEO Policy 6.49 section 13.1.

It is the responsibility of the entire Hockey Community to advocate and act accordingly for the safety of all our participants. Any known violations of this policy must be reported to the appropriate Association, League, District, or HEO Safety Person immediately.