



NEWS RELEASE

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USA Hockey Congress Approves Requirement For Neck Laceration Protection Starting August 1, 2024

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – The USA Hockey Congress today approved legislation requiring the use of neck laceration protection for players in all age classifications, other than adults, in games and practices, as well as for on-ice officials under the age of 18, effective August 1, 2024.

USA Hockey has long recommended the use of neck laceration protection, as well as cut-resistant socks, sleeves or undergarments. The USA Hockey Board of Directors asked the organization's Safety and Protective Equipment Committee in November 2023 to begin the process of recommending potential rule changes related to neck laceration protection.

"Safety is always at the forefront of our conversations and the action of our Congress today reflected that," said **Mike Trimboli**, president of USA Hockey. "We appreciate the significant work done by our Safety and Protective Equipment Committee, led by Dr. Mike Stuart, and the many others who were instrumental in the overall evaluation process."

"I know throughout our organization, the overwhelming opinion was that the time is appropriate to modify our rules related to neck laceration protection," said **Pat Kelleher**, executive director of USA Hockey. "We're also encouraged that the hockey industry is committed to continuing to work to improve the cut resistant products that protect players to help influence the safest possible landscape for the game."

The legislation passed today also strongly recommends use of neck laceration protection by adult players.

For more information, including frequently asked questions, click [here](#).

