



HOCKEY ASSOCIATION, INC.

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

New York State Amateur Hockey Association, Inc., Statement on Neck Laceration Protectors

January 29, 2024 – As a proud affiliate of USA Hockey, the New York State Amateur Hockey Association shares in the commitment to making our game as safe as possible.

That is why the NYSAHA director representatives to USA Hockey’s board of directors voted unanimously to approve 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. The new legislation takes effect August 1, 2024.

NYSAHA has long recommended the use of neck laceration protection, as well as cut-resistant socks, sleeves and undergarments.

“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 and a long-time member of the NYSAHA board. “We appreciate the significant work done by our Safety and Protective Equipment Committee, led by [USA Hockey’s Chief Medical Officer] Dr. Mike Stuart, and the many others who were instrumental in the overall evaluation process.”

“Protection against neck lacerations is paramount in hockey to safeguard players from potentially life threatening injuries. The high-speed and physical nature of the sport elevate the risk of accidental collisions, stick slashes, or skate cuts to the neck area,” said Eric Guzdek, NYSAHA president. “Implementing effective neck laceration protection not only preserves players safety, but also fosters confidence, allowing them to focus on their performance without fear of severe harm. As such, prioritizing and investing in advanced protective gear and regulations are essential steps toward ensuring the well-being of athletes in the game.”

The legislation also strongly recommends the use of neck laceration protection by players participating in all registered adult leagues as well as adult referees and all on-ice coaches.

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About NYSAHA, Inc.

The New York State Amateur Hockey Association, Inc. provides and promotes a positive, safe and enjoyable hockey experience for all.