



Vancouver Island
Amateur Hockey Association

INFORMATION BULLETIN

2008-07-IN - AMENDED

October 28, 2008

TO: MHA Presidents, Association Administrators, All Teams

FROM: Mark Kenny, VIAHA President

SUBJECT: Helmet Requirements for Coaches Set for December 1, 2008

Please ensure that all your coaches and on-ice personnel are immediately aware of the following information from the BCH Bulletin 2008-50-A issued October 29, 2008 and Media Release October 27th:

Helmet Requirement for Coaches Set for December 1

Helmet Policy:

Effective December 1, 2008 BC Hockey sanctioning for minor hockey practices requires that all on-ice participants wear a CSA approved helmet.

Those included in the policy are coaches and other on ice personnel.

BC Hockey will not sanction on ice activities not in compliance.

The topic of helmets on coaches has been a heavily debated subject over the past few years. BC Hockey is joining at least nine (9) other Hockey Canada Branches that have already implemented similar policy. BC Hockey acknowledges the coach as one of our game's most important assets. The protection of the coach is in the continued best interest of our sport. The decision is viewed as a necessary step in the evolution of safety requirements for hockey participants.

BC Hockey announced today that steps will be taken to increase the level of safety for coaches taking part in on-ice activities.

At meetings held this past weekend in Richmond, the BC Hockey Executive Committee passed a motion which will effectively require all coaches to wear a helmet during team practices. A directive was issued today to all member minor hockey associations in BC and the Yukon notifying them of the requirement, which will take effect on December 1, 2008.

"The decision is viewed as a necessary step in the evolution of safety requirements for hockey participants, and has been in development over the past couple of years" noted BC Hockey Risk Manager Randy Henderson. "We had put our plans on hold in anticipation of a national directive on the subject, but when we received word last week from the Hockey Canada Safety and Risk Management Committee that the release of a national policy was not imminent our Board decided it was time to take action here in BC."

The decision sets out that failure to wear a helmet by a coach at practice will result in the pulling of BC Hockey's sanction of the practice. Unsanctioned activities are not covered by the association's insurance policy. The new policy will mean that all coaches who participant on-ice with their players will be required to wear a CSA approved helmet. "This policy is being introduced with the coach's safety in mind" added Henderson.

For more information about BC Hockey, please visit the BC Hockey website at www.bchockey.net or email info@bchockey.net.