



Vancouver Island
Amateur Hockey Association

INFORMATION BULLETIN # 2008-13-IN

January 21, 2009

TO: VIAHA Executive, Managing Directors, Commissioners, MHA Administrators, Risk Managers, HCSP, All Teams

FROM: Carol Fergusson, VIAHA/BCH Safety & Risk Manager and Joe McDonald, BCH District Director

SUBJECT: Stickers on Helmets

There have been questions arising concerning stickers on helmets. Please note the following Hockey Canada Bulletin which can also be found in the Hockey Canada Safety Program Manual pages 55/56, as well as FAQs.

Hockey Canada Bulletin I 04-07

Hockey Canada requires all players to wear helmets that are CSA certified from the manufacturer. *It is the responsibility of the equipment user to ensure that throughout the life of the helmet, the CSA certification is maintained.* HC recommends that prior to applying anything to the helmet, including stickers, that they refer to the manufacturer's instructions and if applicable, the sticker manufacturer to confirm the type of adhesive they are applying will not jeopardize CSA certification and/or the manufacturer's warranty. *It is the sole responsibility of the equipment user to ensure that they are not applying adhesives or other materials that may affect the integrity of the helmet and ultimately void the CSA certification and/or the manufacturer's warranty.*

Summary – All players within HC must wear a CSA certified hockey helmet and the CSA sticker must remain on the helmet at all times. The following summarizes guidelines related to the application of stickers on the CSA certified helmet:

1. *It is recommended that you do not apply anything to the helmet; however, if the user decides to apply materials such as stickers, then it is their responsibility to ensure that it meets approval of the helmet manufacturer.*
2. It is important that the manufacturer instructions for care of the helmet are carefully read and followed to ensure proper maintenance of this piece of equipment.

What does this policy mean to the user?

HC will continue to require all players to wear a CSA certified helmet and a CSA certified facial protector (where applicable) as stated in Rule 24(b). It is the responsibility of the parents and players to ensure that if they are applying a sticker to the helmet that the adhesive meets the requirements of the manufacturer and of CSA, and the manufacturer has approved the application of the sticker. HC Officials will no longer remove a player's helmet from play for the application of stickers. Note that this does not by any means allow for other alterations of the helmet or facial protector.

Why is the policy being brought forward?

As you are aware, it has become very difficult to police situations in which stickers have been applied to the helmet. There are many stickers that exist that could be approved by the manufacturer; but because Hockey Canada cannot differentiate between these and stickers that should not be applied, we have had to have a policy of no stickers on the helmet. This policy put the responsibility of ensuring that stickers are approved by the manufacturer back in the hands of the parents and players.

Continued on Page 2

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Why do some adhesives affect the helmet integrity?

Some glue creates an exothermic reaction, which can alter the molecular composition of the plastic, therefore reducing its strength and protection.

How quickly can adhesive affect the helmet?

This depends on many factors including how much the helmet is worn and what material the helmet is made of.

Could a unique mark be used to identify stickers that are safe to apply to the hockey helmet?

This is unfortunately not a realistic solution, as it would be very difficult to mark small stickers such as numbers. The other problem is that the mark could be copied and applied to stickers that are not suitable. This type of situation would be difficult to police.

Is there another way to affix decals as opposed to glue?

The problem with other application methods is that helmets often get wet and this would cause the stickers to fall off.

If a specific manufacturer approves a sticker to be applied to their helmet, does this mean the sticker may be applied to a helmet from another manufacturer?

No, the approval from one manufacturer does not mean that the sticker can be applied to all helmets. Approval has to be sought from the manufacturer of the particular helmet.