



## INFORMATION BULLETIN

**Date:** August 29, 2013

**To:** Minor Hockey Associations; Senior Male & Female Teams;  
Junior A, B, C & Female Teams; League Presidents; Board of Directors; Councils

**From:** Curtis Nichols  
Referee In Chief, Hockey Alberta

**SUBJECT: Clarification - Rule Enforcement on Mouth Guards**

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This bulletin is intended to clarify the status of mouth guards within amateur hockey in Alberta.

Hockey Canada's Playing Rule regarding mouth guards is as follows:

### 3.6 *Protective Equipment*

- (g) *For Divisions of hockey that allow the wearing of a half visor, the wearing of a mouth guard is compulsory (recommended but optional for Senior hockey). When a player fails to properly wear a mouth guard at any time on the ice during the game, his team shall receive one warning. Any player on that team who commits a subsequent infraction will receive a Misconduct penalty. Referees are encouraged to deliver this warning directly to the Coach.*

Hockey Alberta does not have an approved rule or regulation that mandates the use of mouth guards for any Division or Category of hockey and therefore can only abide by and enforce the Hockey Canada Playing Rule. Hockey Alberta's registered officials are educated and trained to officiate the game of hockey in accordance with the Hockey Canada Playing Rules. It would be extremely difficult for our officials to attempt to enforce League, Club or Minor Hockey Association (MHA) specific rules while trying to maintain the standard of play that is mandated by Hockey Canada.

Hockey Alberta officials will not be enforcing any League, Club or MHA mouth guard rules that are in addition to the Hockey Canada Playing Rules.

It is recommended that the League, Club or MHA develop a plan to monitor and impose their own sanctions if they have rules pertaining to mouth guards.

Sincerely,

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