

# **Inline Hockey Ireland - Safety Policy**

Version 1.1

## **1. Introduction**

The safety of IHI members is a responsibility which is shared among all members including executive, officials, team managers, coaches, and players. Any member who believes an unsafe condition exists should take action to prevent play from continuing until the condition is corrected.

A failure or refusal to take action, or allowing play to proceed when an unsafe condition exists will result in disciplinary action.

This document addresses three areas which are crucial to ensuring a safe playing environment:

- Safety of Playing Area
- Proper Equipment
- Respectful Conduct

## **2. Facilities**

Any facility to be used for an IHI activity should be free of any health and safety hazards. Potential or existing hazards should be dealt with in advance. Anyone discovering such a hazard should bring it to the attention of event organizers.

### **2.1. Playing Area**

Prior to beginning any activity, officials (for games) and/or coaches and managers should inspect the playing area. If there are any conditions which are deemed to be unsafe, they must be corrected before play begins. Should an unsafe condition arise during an activity, play must stop immediately and the condition must be corrected before play begins.

Under no circumstances should any player, manager, coach or official participate in any IHI activity where conditions are less than safe.

#### **2.1.1. Playing Surface**

The playing surface must be clean and dry and clear of obstructions, protrusions, sharp edges or any other dangerous condition.

#### **2.1.2. Goals and Netting**

Goals should be checked to ensure they are in good condition without holes in netting. Any issues must be repaired before play commences.

### **3. Mandatory Equipment**

All mandatory equipment must be worn for ALL IHI activities. Any player who fails to wear mandatory equipment is ineligible to participate. While every effort will be made to ensure players are wearing mandatory equipment, each participant is personally responsible for wearing mandatory equipment for all games, warm-ups, practices or other activities. The issue of any player who refuses to wear proper equipment will be referred to IHI for disciplinary action.

All protective equipment except gloves, head gear or goaltender leg pads, must be entirely under the uniform.

#### **3.1. Mandatory Equipment for All Players**

As stated previously, all mandatory equipment must be worn for ALL IHI activities including training, pickup, or competitions.

##### **3.1.1. Helmets**

All players and officials must wear CSA/HECC-approved helmets, with a properly-fastened chin strap. Goaltenders must wear approved face masks. Full face protection (cage or full shield) is required for players less than 18 years of age.

##### **3.1.2. Gloves**

All players must wear approved ice hockey, ball hockey or Lacrosse gloves.

##### **3.1.3. Elbow Pads**

All players must wear approved elbow pads.

##### **3.1.4. Protective Cup**

Male players must wear a protective cup at all times during the game.

##### **3.1.5. Shin Guards**

All players must wear shin guards designed for ice or roller hockey.

##### **3.1.6. Skates**

In-line skates or roller skates are allowed. Skates must be free of any unsafe protrusions.

##### **3.1.7. Eyeglasses**

Any eyeglasses must have plastic, not glass, lenses.

##### **3.1.8. Jersey and Long Pants or Hockey Pants and Socks**

As all equipment must be covered a jersey and long pants or hockey pants and socks are required.

#### **3.2. Recommended Equipment**

While the following equipment is optional, players and parents are encouraged to make use of the following recommended equipment.

### **3.2.1. Full Face Protection**

Full face protection is highly recommended for players 18 and over.

### **3.2.2. Padded Shorts**

Padded shorts which protect the hips, thighs and tailbone are also highly recommended.

### **3.2.3. Mouth Guards**

Mouth guards designed for sport are highly recommended.

## **3.3. Equipment for Goaltenders**

### **3.3.1. Goaltender Helmet**

A helmet which is CSA/HECC approved for goaltenders is required.

### **3.3.2. Catcher/Blocker**

Goalies must wear gloves designed for hockey goaltenders, not player gloves.

### **3.3.3. Mouth Guards**

Mouth guards designed for sport are highly recommended.

## **3.4. Equipment for Referees**

Unless otherwise stated, equipment listed below is mandatory for referees or on-court officials.

### **3.4.1. Helmets**

Referees must wear CSA/HECC-approved helmets, with a properly-fastened chin strap. Facial protection is recommended. A black helmet is preferred.

### **3.4.2. Whistle**

Referees should obtain their own whistle. A finger grip style metal whistle (ACME "Thunderer" model 144/57½ or Fox 40 "FORCE" model recommended) is preferred.

### **3.4.3. Protective Cup**

A Pelvic protector (females) or athletic support with cup (males) must be worn.

### **3.4.4. Shin Guards**

All referees must wear shin guards designed for ice or roller hockey.

### **3.4.5. Skates**

In-line skates or roller skates are allowed. Skates must be free of any unsafe protrusions.

### **3.4.6. Referee's Jersey**

A normal black and white striped official's jersey should be worn.

### **3.4.7. Long Pants**

Black pants are recommended, but other neutral designs or colours are permitted.

### **3.4.8. Elbow Pads**

Optional but highly recommended.

## **4. Respectful Conduct**

Finally, all players and officials must act in a respectful manner. Any player or official who is abusive, threatening, or otherwise acting in a disrespectful or dangerous manner shall be removed from the activity and the incident will be referred for disciplinary action.

### **Revision History**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1.0	29/11/2005	Jason Tessier	Initial Draft
1.1	09/01/2006	Jason Tessier	Inserted facilities section, goaltender section, and referees equipment section.