

VISORS, HELMETS, AND GOALTENDER MASKS

Over the past few seasons there have been several concerns brought to the attention of the SHA regarding illegal visors, helmets and goalie facial protectors being used in all levels of hockey. One of these is the fact that teams are being told by the referee “I don’t call that penalty” or that the referee actually doesn’t know what the penalty is. Rule 3.6 from the Hockey Canada Case Book/Rule Combination (pgs. 38-44) is presented below and explains the rule and appropriate penalties.

Rule 3.6(e): “If the Referee’s attention is drawn to the possibility that a facial protector or helmet may not be CSA certified, or if the Referee observes that a facial protector or helmet may not be certified, and should that piece of equipment in effect turn out not to be certified, the Referee shall assess a Minor penalty and at the same time order that illegal piece of equipment removed from the game.

Note 1: The Referee is empowered to make the call without his attention being drawn by an opposing player or team official through the Captain.”

Situation 12 Rule 3.6(e) (pg. 42): “If, after a player has been assessed a Minor penalty for wearing a non-certified helmet, facial protector or throat protector, and that player refuses to change the illegal piece of equipment, the Referee shall assess a Gross Misconduct.”

Situation 13 Rule 3.6(e) (pg. 42): “At any time prior to the start of a game, a Referee may notify a team of an illegal piece of equipment, advising them to correct it or change it before the initial face-off. For example, a Referee observes a player or goaltender wearing a non-certified helmet or facial protector during the pre-game warm-up. The Referee may then, without assessing a penalty notify the player or team that such equipment is not permissible. This may be done without penalty only prior to the start of the game.”

In June 2009, Health Canada recommended that all visors sold in Canada meet the requirements of the 2009 version of the CSA face protector standard. Visors certified to this standard are classified as Type C and will have a yellow certification sticker. **The 2009 standard now allows visors to be certified without needing a frame or three-point attachment.**

The following photos show the Bauer HDO Pro Straight visor:



Bauer has also created the HS23, which is CSA-certified. They are available in clear, tinted, and mirrored. The following 2 pictures are of the HS23p:



- Some things to look for on visors:
 - If a visor doesn't have a CSA sticker, then it is not certified.
 - As mentioned previously, a visor does not have to be attached to the front of the helmet to be certified.
 - Non-certified visors will frequently have only slots on the side (as seen in the picture below).
 - Some players will take the CSA sticker from one visor and put it on a non-certified visor (see picture below).
 - The yellow sticker is from a Bauer FM1000 visor



The rules regarding goalie facial protectors are the same. To be certified, they must have a CSA sticker on them. It is illegal for retail stores to purchase non-CSA goalie facial protectors also. **The Tim Thomas-style cage and the original cat-eye cages are illegal. However, there is a legal version of the cat-eye that has an extra bar, as pictured below.**

Non CSA-certified cat-eye:



CSA-certified cat-eye:



Tim Thomas-style cage:



Rule 3.6(b): “While on the ice, including pre-game warm-ups, all players, including goaltenders, shall wear a CSA certified hockey helmet, to which a CSA certified facial protector must be securely attached and not altered in any way. Any alteration to a CSA certified helmet or facial protector automatically destroys the certification.”

Since all helmets are sold with ear pieces, removing them is considered altering a helmet. This destroys the CSA certification. Ear pieces must be worn in all levels of hockey. The penalty for wearing a helmet without ear pieces is the same as wearing a non CSA-certified helmet, visor or facial protector.

The bottom line is that if there is no CSA sticker on the visor, helmet, or facial protector, then it is illegal to use.

If there is a CSA sticker on the visor, helmet, or facial protector, then you must allow that piece of equipment to be used.

The sticker on a visor will be yellow, while the CSA logo or the sticker itself on a goalie wire cage will be blue.