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Subject: Rule changes

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RM

AAA and AA season are already underway, and the A season schedule should be out shortly with an expected start date of Nov 1. Clinics are well underway as well, I will continue to try to get a full list of certified officials and will share that with you as soon as I get them. All officials must take a clinic every season, the deadline is always the completion of the final clinic - which will be around the end of November.

A couple relevant rule changes to share with your officials:

This bit comes from Hockey Manitoba, and Hockey Winnipeg is on board with the rule change.

1. Mouthguards

- **Not required** if the player is wearing a **full cage**.
- **Mandatory** if the player is wearing a **visor**.
- Officials must consistently enforce this — if a player is wearing a visor and does not have a mouthguard, a penalty must be called.

2. Neck Guards

- **Mandatory at all age levels** — no exceptions.
- Neck guards **cannot be taped, rolled down, or hidden** in any way.
- If an official sees a neck guard that is taped, rolled, or not worn properly, they are expected to **call a penalty**, regardless of the team, player, or game situation.

Hockey Canada is increasing enforcement of neck guard regulations, and we are expected to follow through accordingly. Officials must be proactive in identifying and calling these violations.

Thank you for your attention and support in keeping our game safe and consistent.

To Clarify - A visor in this context is referring to a half shield. Participants who wear full face protection “bubble” or “cage” would both be considered full face protection.

As all Hockey WPG assigned games are required to wear full face protection, no mouth guards are needed.

The other rule change with relevance for Hockey Winnipeg leagues -

SR18 (pg 88) Any player upon being assessed their fourth penalty of any type during a hockey game shall automatically be assessed a Game Ejection. The double minor penalties (spear, butt-end, etc.) will count as only one penalty in this count. A minor penalty and misconduct at the same stoppage of play shall constitute 2 penalties in this count. ***If a delayed penalty is washed out because of a goal, the penalty is still recorded on the official game sheet and will count against a player's total. The penalty will be annotated with “W.O.” to signify that it was not served***

Please share the mouthguard and washed out penalty rule changes with your officials if you haven't already.