



Technical Bulletin 09-01

Facemask Standards

EFFECTIVE January 1, 2010

In response to delays in testing by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) of lacrosse facemasks, the Canadian Lacrosse Association's (CLA) Board of Directors have agreed that the requirement for CSA approved lacrosse facemasks be delayed until the 2012 season and the current masks available and being produced be permitted for both the 2010 and 2011 season.

Manufacturers have agreed that once CSA testing begins, expected to start in early in 2010, only masks produced to that standard will be made.

What this means for parents and players is that any masks currently available for purchase, or those that were purchased in the last few years, can be used until January 1, 2012. It is believed that CSA approved lacrosse facemasks will enter the market in late 2010 in time for the 2011 season which will be considered a transition year.

Starting on January 1, 2012 the following policy, as listed in the CLA Operations, will take effect in regards to helmets and facemasks:

12.4. Helmets & Facemasks

- 12.4.1. Lacrosse is a sport with intrinsic hazards and participation in the sport implies the acceptance of some risk of injury. When used as intended for lacrosse and in accordance with the manufacturer's fitting instructions, the use of the helmet certified under these standards is intended to reduce the frequency and severity of head injuries.
- 12.4.2. For Box and Men's Field Lacrosse, all players are required to wear a helmet which must meet either of the following standards:
 - 12.4.2.1. A National Organizing Committee for Safety in Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) approved helmet and facial protector, approved as a complete unit, for lacrosse.
 - 12.4.2.2. A Canadian Standards Association (CSA) approved for Ice Hockey helmet with the appropriate CSA approved facemask for lacrosse.
 - 12.4.2.3. A Canadian Standards Association (CSA) approved for Ice Hockey helmet with the appropriate CSA approved facemask for hockey with the following exceptions:
 - 12.4.2.3.1. The facemask shall be designed to cover the wearer's entire face to the lower line of the jaw, and prevent the ball or the head of the stick from touching the face of the wearer.
 - 12.4.2.3.2. The facemask must be finished so that it does not create a risk of injury to the wearer or another person when it is used as it is intended.

Should you have any questions in regard to this, please contact the CLA Office at info1@lacrosse.ca or at 613-260-2028.