



ALASKA STATE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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MESSAGE REGARDING HECC HELMET STICKERS

I was recently contacted regarding the “rule change” involving HECC helmet stickers.

This “rule change” is actually not a rule change. A note was added to the USAH rule acknowledging that HECC now puts an expiration date on the sticker of the helmet that both the manufacturer and the HECC sticker indicates should not be removed. We (USAH) have mandated HECC certification for 30 years and the only way to ensure this is to have the sticker in place. HECC is saying that the helmet is no longer certified after the expiration date.

According to Matt Leaf, Director of Officials, USAH, the sticker and its validation date is not the “be all – end all” to helmet approval. A player could have a cracked helmet (and deemed to be dangerous) that has the proper sticker, but we would expect the officials to not allow the player to participate with that helmet. At the same time, if a helmet is in good condition and meets the “smell” test from a distance when the officials looks at it (meaning he is not taking a magnifying glass to the sticker to try to find a date) the player should probably be allowed to play even if no sticker, according to Leaf. This is no different than what has been done for 30 years and the Casebook situations reflect that. Ultimately, it is up to the parents and the coaches to police the expiration dates of their players’ helmets.

I hope this helps clarify the HECC sticker concerns.

As always, our goal is to promote awareness and ensure the safety of our players.

Have a great season, be safe, be certified and have fun.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Hockey,

Darryl L. Thompson
ASHA President

Darryl Thompson, President

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