



Protective Eyewear Policy

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Introduction

In floorball, as in other team sports, the eyesight of each individual player is of big importance. In everyday life, approximately 80% of all information is processed via our visual organ. In playing team sports, this percentage is up to 95% (Schnell, 1999).

In a Swiss study, 65% of all injuries to the face, were injuries to the eye and eye area. Most of the face injuries were caused by either a stick or an opposing player (elbow). Interestingly, the blade (high stick) accounted for most injuries in this category.

Juniors usually cannot make a proper risk assessment and judge dangers differently to adults. Sometimes, too much excitement and/or inattentiveness can be enough to get hurt. Uncoordinated playing around with the stick and balls, a high stick or an un-aimed, high shot can lead to a dangerous situation for an opposing player or a team mate. The wearing of protective eye goggles can help lessen the impact.

It is much better to prevent an injury than cure one and is why overseas floorball clubs are increasingly insistent on young children wear protective eyewear. Floorball is a dynamic sport full of emotions, speed and physicality. These characteristics make this sport so attractive for spectators. These features also harbour dangers:

Eye injuries through high sticks, elbows and balls and rebound balls

Most eye injuries are caused by the blade or an elbow. Wearing protective eye glasses can significantly lessen the severity of such an injury and its long-term consequences.

The Policy

This policy will apply to teams and individuals who are participating in competitions or programs which are organised or sanctioned by Floorball Australia and/or any of its junior members and junior clubs.

Junior players are defined by this policy as players seventeen (17) years of age or younger.

Junior players required to wear protective eyewear in accordance with this policy must wear their eyewear properly over the eyes at all times whenever they are participating in activities conducted on-court which involves the use of floorball sticks and balls.

Any junior club and/or Australian player who is registered as a member of Floorball Australia must wear protective eyewear when they are playing in any domestic or international tournaments and/or competitions. This policy is also to include any and all training or practice sessions and include any junior players defined by this policy that are participating in senior competitions.

Floorball Australia also recommends that all coaches and senior players wear protective eyewear when conducting on-court activities with junior players defined by this policy.

Exemptions

Junior floorball players who wear prescription lenses during training and games may apply to Floorball Australia to seek an exemption. Such an exemption will only be considered if the eyewear to be used has evidence from the treating optometrist or other relevant practitioner included with the application for exemption.

It is recommended that prescription protective eyewear must comply to the relevant Australian and/or International standards for protective eyewear in sport.

Compliance

Protective eyewear must comply or exceed the frontal impact requirements of the following Australian standards.

AS/NZS 4066 or AS/NZS 4499.

Other Standards can include:

USA ASTM F803 -03

Great Britain BS 7930 – 1 : 1998

Canada CSA P400

European Standards for Eye Protection - EN166 The CE marking certifies that a product has met EU consumer safety, health or environmental requirements.

This policy will take effect on the first day of July 2018.