



MEMORANDUM

To: USA Hockey Referee Section and local support staff
From: BJ Ringrose - Manager, USAH Officiating & HECC Board Member
Date: February 29, 2020
Re: Pro-Masque Goalkeeper Face-masks

The Hockey Equipment Certification Council has recently learned that some Youth, Girls, High School and Junior level goalkeepers are wearing goalkeeper face-masks manufactured by Pro-Masque during USA Hockey competition.

This memo and the attached letter from Pro-masque shall serve as notice that these face-masks are **not** HECC Certified.

The Hockey Equipment Certification Council has released the following statement:

"NOTICE TO CONSUMERS PLEASE BE ADVISED, HECC has learned that Pro-masque may be affixing HECC labels to its products. At this time, Pro-masque IS NOT on the HECC certified products list. If you purchased a Pro-masque product with a HECC label affixed to it, please contact our legal counsel, Ryan W. Miosek at RMIOSEK@MIOSEKLAW.COM or call (607) 282-4447."

While the primary responsibility to wear proper equipment rests with the player, it is the responsibility of coaches, parents and referees to correct or remove illegal equipment once they become aware of it. Therefore, USA Hockey is taking action to educate players, coaches and parents so they will comply with USAH Rule 304(c) during USA Hockey sanctioned competition.

Furthermore, we recognize the difficulty of confirming a manufacturer once a goalkeeper face-mask has been painted. If a question regarding a goalkeeper face-mask arises during a game, the referee should execute a quick review of the face-mask. Assuming all components of the mask are legal and properly worn (including the cage and chin-strap), a valid HECC Sticker is present, and there is no clear indication that the mask was manufactured by Pro-masque, then the game should be allowed to continue without further delay or penalty.

We ask that you please share this information with all local officials and officiating administrators.

Best wishes for a safe and successful season.

Attachment:

- Pro-masque letter



February 20, 2020

Dear Pro-Masque Customer:

As many of you are aware, Pro-Masque has manufactured top quality goalie masks in our family for over fifty-five (55) years and the quality and safety of the Pro-Masque products have always been our top priority. During this time, I am very proud that our products have been safely utilized in competition from youth hockey to National Hockey League All-Star participants.

While the significant majority of our products are not manufactured for use in youth or USA Ice Hockey sanctioned competition, there have been some of our products that were. In order to properly utilize our products for these competitions, it is necessary for those products to be Hockey Equipment Certification Council ("HECC") certified. While Pro-Masque products have been previously certified for such use, Pro-Masque products are not currently certified by HECC for youth or USA Ice Hockey competition.

As a customer of Pro-Masque who may have purchased our product for use in youth or USA Ice Hockey competition, I wanted to personally advise you of these circumstances and ensure that you were aware that the Pro-Masque product purchased is not currently HECC certified for the same. Further, any HECC label that may have been affixed to this product should be removed.

My best wishes for continued safety and success, on and off the ice, and I apologize for any confusion or inconvenience.

Sincerely,

Matthew Garland