

# Instruction regarding Head Injuries

This instruction applies to all junior hockey and also applies to any junior player injured in a senior match.

Any player receiving a head injury **MUST** be removed from the field of play as soon as it is medically safe to do so and qualified medical opinion attention sought from an A&E department or a registered medical practitioner.

Umpires officiating at junior games are instructed not to permit the match to continue until the injured player has been removed and not to allow the injured player to return to the field of play during the course of the game.

In tournament hockey it is conceivable that an injured player will receive attention and be passed fit for play. Tournament directors/organisers must be sure that proper medical treatment/advice has been sought before allowing the player to participate further in the tournament.

## Goalkeepers in Junior Hockey

These instructions and advice notes apply to all matches where all, or a substantial proportion of, players are under 18 at the competition eligibility date.

- a) Teams must always play with a fully equipped goalkeeper. Fully equipped goalkeeper is defined as the minimum specified in the Rules of Hockey: secured protective headgear incorporating fixed full-face protection, leg guards and kickers. Additional protection as permitted by the Rules such as hand protectors is strongly advised.
- b) All junior competition rules are amended to state – “each team must at all times have a fully equipped goalkeeper on the field.”
- c) All junior league organisers must include in their rules the requirement that each team shall at all times have a fully equipped goalkeeper on the field.
- d) All junior county teams must always play with a fully equipped goalkeeper.
- e) Schools are advised that all matches must be played with fully equipped goalkeepers.
- f) Junior teams playing matches not covered by the above rulings are advised to always play with a fully equipped goalkeeper.

In addition to the above it should be noted that the Mini Hockey rules issued by England Hockey require that each team must have a fully equipped goalkeeper on the pitch at all times.

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