



National Federation of State
High School Associations



2011 Points of Emphasis



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Protective Eyewear

UPDATE

- During the April 13, 2011 NFHS Board of Directors meeting, the decision was made to mandate protective eyewear for all field players.
- The NFHS specifically writes playing rules for high school field hockey players.



Protective Eyewear UPDATE (continued)

- The NFHS rule is more permissive than FIH and NCAA which limit protective eyewear to polycarbonate lenses.
- The NFHS requires that the protective eyewear meets the current ASTM F2713-09 standard for either of the following products:
 - Polycarbonate (lens) protective eyewear
 - Wire protective eyewear



Protective Eyewear UPDATE (continued)

- The protective eyewear mandate has prompted some fundamental questions about the proper use of protective eyewear.
- The following questions and guidance are provided for our member state associations and contest officials.
- All questions from parents and coaches should be directed to your local high school activities/athletic association.





Protective Eyewear UPDATE (continued)

- Protective eyewear that meets the ASTM F2713-09 standard is available through numerous retail channels and at various retail price points.
- The product can be identified online by searching for “*Field hockey protective eyewear that meets ASTM F2713-09 requirements.*”
 - Over 1,800 results will appear in less than .40 seconds.



Protective Eyewear UPDATE (continued)

- The product can be identified in retail stores by searching for “*Field hockey protective eyewear that meets ASTM F2713-09 requirements retail stores*” online.
 - Over 99 results will appear in .42 seconds.



Protective Eyewear UPDATE (continued)

- Can players utilize the available face mask products in conjunction with protective eyewear for penalty corners?
- Yes, but note the following:
 - The current style of face masks available do not meet any type of domestic or international standard testing protocols.





Protective Eyewear UPDATE (continued)

- Protective eyewear manufacturers do not have their products tested with face masks included.
- Protective eyewear manufactures assert that players who combine the two products assume all the responsibility for wearing them.





Protective Eyewear UPDATE (continued)

- Who is responsible for inspecting the equipment prior to the beginning of a contest?
 - Initially, head coaches are responsible for their players being properly and legally equipped prior to the beginning of the field hockey season.
 - The game officials by rule verifies with both coaches prior to the contest that their players' uniforms and equipment are compliant.



Protective Eyewear UPDATE (continued)

- What is the responsibility of the officials when the protective eyewear is struck by a ball or stick?
 - Game officials would summon the coach of a player if they determine that the player was struck by the ball or stick in the head or face area and is in the need of medical attention, just as they do for other injuries.



Protective Eyewear UPDATE (continued)

- The ASTM standard states that “if the eye protector is severely impacted, short of failure, then the degree of protection provided will be reduced and the eye protector must be replaced.” “Failure to do so may result in permanent injuries to the eye.”
- The standard goes on to say, “that if a lens (polycarbonate style) pops out due to impact during play, the wearer should stop playing and have the protector replaced.”

