

2002 / 2006 IIHF RULE INTERPRETATION BULLETIN # 2

Information for Game Officials, Players and Coaches

In advance of the upcoming IIHF Championship Program we would like to focus the attention of all member National Associations concerning IIHF Rule 227, Mouth Guard, for the wearing of mouth guards by players in the age category under 20, who are not wearing a full facemask.

Rule 227 - Mouth Guard

1. It is recommended that all players wear a custom-made mouth guard.
2. All players in the age category under 20, and not wearing a full facemask, must wear a custom-made mouth guard.
3. If a player in the under 20-age category participates in any IIHF competition and does not wear a full facemask, he must wear a visor along with a custom-made mouth guard.
4. The interpretation of this ruling is that a mouth guard is deemed acceptable if it is properly fitted to the upper teeth of the player.

IIHF Game officials assigned to IIHF competitions this season will once again be instructed by the IIHF Referee Supervisor to use visual control to ensure that any player in the age category under 20 wearing a visor must also be wearing a mouth guard.

If not, the player will be sent off of the ice, wherein IIHF Rule 555 – Illegal and Dangerous Equipment will be applied to this equipment infraction issue.

It is the responsibility of each national association, their team management and team physician to ensure that the mouth guard is manufactured to properly fit the upper teeth of each player wearing such a device.