



**ONTARIO RINGETTE ASSOCIATION  
3 CONCORDE GATE, SUITE #207  
TORONTO, ONTARIO M3C 3N7**

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# MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

## Insurance, Rules and Equipment

One issue that constantly arises concerns the wearing of proper equipment, especially shoulder pads. The Ontario Ringette Association has mandated the wearing of shoulder pads that were manufactured specifically for the sport of ice hockey and/or Ringette **without any alterations**. This applies to all age divisions up to and including U19.

### **Whose responsibility is it to ensure the wearing of shoulder pads and other equipment?**

The Head Coach has the overall responsibility for the team and is ultimately responsible for player equipment and the safety and conduct of their players.

The Officials are responsible for application of the rules.

### **What are the consequences of not wearing the required protective equipment?**

Where it is known that the required equipment is not being worn our insurance is invalid, not only for the person who fails to wear the equipment, but for the entire game or event itself.

In other words, if a player does not wear shoulder pads and this is ignored, everybody associated with the game is affected by not having insurance coverage for the game, both liability and sport accident insurance.

If a coach, official or association was to be sued due to an injury, they would have no coverage.

If any player in the game sustains an injury, if uninsured, they are responsible for any and all medical expenses.

### **What to do if a player is not wearing shoulder pads?**

Bench staff need to be more observant to what the players are wearing. If you see a player on your team without proper protective equipment, you must make them put on the proper equipment before stepping on the ice.

Officials who are suspicious of protective gear compliance have the responsibility to ask the player or coach to prove it is on. If the player is not wearing the proper equipment the player must leave the ice and cannot return until properly dressed.

### **Ramifications:**

When we adapt rules we must ensure that they are followed. Not enforcing the rules or ignoring them results in the forfeiture of insurance for all those directly involved in the event. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that all the rules are followed not just the ones you agree with.

March 2014