



January 16, 2009

To: Associations & Leagues
Fr: Wayne Leslie, Executive Director
Re: BCRA Mandatory Helmet Requirement

BC Ringette announces that as part of steps it is taking to increase the level of safety for participants, especially coaches and assistants taking part in on-ice activities, it is introducing a mandatory helmet policy.

At meetings held this past weekend in Richmond, the BC Ringette Board of Directors passed a motion which will effectively require all coaches, assistants and helpers to wear a helmet during team practices. This policy implementation marks an important evolution in safety requirements for British Columbia Ringette and means those who participate with players in on-ice activities will be required to wear a CSA approved helmet.

BCRA's new mandatory helmet policy, outlined below, has been incorporated into the 2008-2009 policy manual available on the BC Ringette website and [takes effect on February 15th, 2009.](#)

SECTION H: TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT – ATHLETES AND SPORT SUB-SECTION: 4.1 (Equipment)

- Helmets: All on-ice participants at practices and events must wear a CSA approved helmet. Failure to comply with this policy will result in automatic loss of BC Ringette sanctioning for the activity or event. Exemption to this policy may be requested on the basis that the wearing of a helmet would interfere with the observance of a religious custom. The process for applying for an exemption is as follows:
 - (a) Application for such exemption must be made in writing to the BC Ringette Association Executive Director.
 - (b) Granting of such exemption will require the applicant to provide a signed BC Ringette Helmet Policy Waiver form to the Executive Director prior to participation in any sanctioned event.