

## Technical Bulletin 12-01

### CLA Facemask Policy

Over the past number of years, there have been several bulletins authored and distributed by the Canadian Lacrosse Association regarding permitted helmet, facemask, and chin-cup combinations and how they are to be worn during the game. These include:

- **CLA Technical Bulletin 07-03 – Approved Helmets for Midget and Below,**
- **CLA Technical Bulletin 09-01 – Facemask Standards,**
- **CLA Technical Bulletin 11-04 – Legal vs. Illegal Helmets,**
- **CLA Technical Bulletin 11-05 – Legal vs. Illegal Helmets, and**
- **CLA Technical Bulletin 11-06 – Helmet and Facemask Requirements for 2012 and 2013.**

The ALRA has received numerous questions regarding the interpretation of these bulletins. The purpose of this communication is to consolidate and clarify the previous bulletins.

The policy must be separated into two age groups.

#### **1. PLAYERS AGE 16 AND UNDER (MINOR LACROSSE)**

Effective January 1, 2012 (IMMEDIATELY FOR THE 2012 LACROSSE SEASON), players age 16 and under (minor lacrosse) must adhere to the new CLA policy. There are two different types of helmet, facemask, and chin-cup combinations that may be worn for lacrosse.

The **FIRST** type is a traditional “out of the box” field lacrosse helmet complete with facemask and four point chinstrap. If the helmet is NOCSAE approved and is indicated as such on the helmet itself, then it may be worn at all lacrosse levels in either box or field lacrosse. The following pictures represent examples of legal helmets lacrosse. This list of pictures is not inclusive:



The **SECOND** type is the traditional hockey helmet with an added CSA approved facemask. They must be assembled and worn as per the manufacturer's instructions. Any hockey helmet may be used in this configuration as long as it is CSA approved. There are a multiple ways for the helmet, mask, and chin-cup to be affixed and configured. The helmet must remain in its original "out of the box" state after the facemask has been attached. Regardless of age, it is required to have a separate chin strap as part of the helmet; the chinstrap that came with the helmet must remain. The chin-cup must be attached to the mask by a separate strap and properly secured to the helmet during play.

Several facemasks that are CSA approved for other sports are also permitted for use in lacrosse. Players may use the following CSA approved facemasks provided they are installed on CSA approved helmets following the manufacturer's instructions:

Hockey Facemasks (CSA APPROVED):



Ringette Facemasks (CSA APPROVED):



Gait Box Junior Lacrosse Mask and OTNY Junior Lacrosse Cage (CSA APPROVED):



The facemasks must be installed as per the manufacturer's instructions including:

- all hardware must be installed on the helmet including temple "J-clips", snaps, etc.
- the chin cup must be threaded onto the facemask itself (as shown on most examples) using the strap provided and must be adjusted so it snaps just behind the ear during play. The chin cup MAY NOT be threaded onto the hockey helmet chinstrap (THE TWO STRAPS MUST BE SEPARATE) or onto the earloops. The chin cup must be in continuous contact with the player's chin during play.
- the helmet chinstrap must be tightened to allow no more than 1 finger space between the chinstrap and the players chin area.
- the facemask MUST hinge at the top and cup or curl under the chin to cover the bottom part of the jaw.

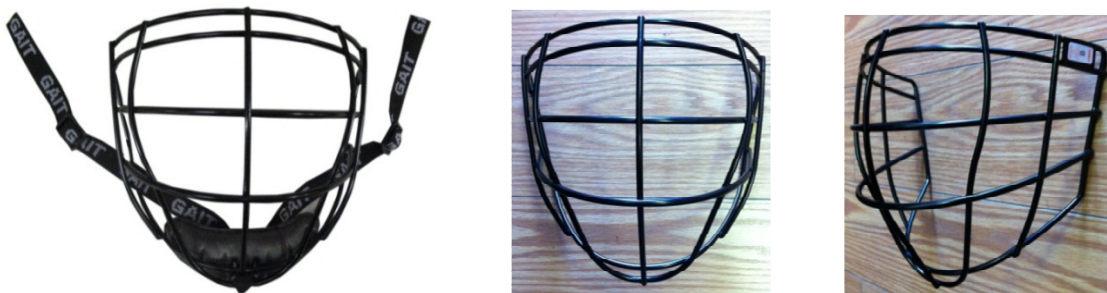
## 2. PLAYERS AGE 17 AND OLDER (MAJOR LACROSSE)

The CLA has recognized that due to the delay in being given notice by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) of there being approved lacrosse facemasks that meet CSA standards, players aged 17 years and over are not required to use a CSA approved facemask until January 1, 2013. Until then, players 17 years and over are permitted to use helmet and facemask configurations that were legal as per CLA policy and used in the 2011 season may continue to be used in the 2012 season. Players or teams are encouraged to conform to the new standards prior to the date noted above.

NOTE: The CLA warns all players 17 years and over about the potential risks of using non CSA approved facemasks and strongly recommends that players 17 years and over use CSA approved lacrosse facemasks where they are available. The CLA informs players 17 years and over who do not use CSA approved facemasks that they are assuming any and all risks associated with the use of non CSA approved facemasks.

Major lacrosse players are permitted to use any of the helmets or configurations noted above. The facemasks shown below are larger versions of the facemasks above:

Gait Box Senior Lacrosse Mask (CSA APPROVED):



\* **NOTE:** the mask curls in at the bottom.

OTNY Intermediate/Senior Lacrosse Cage (CSA APPROVED):



\* **NOTE:** the mask curls in at the bottom.

**FACEMASKS THAT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED FOR MINOR LACROSSE IN 2012:**

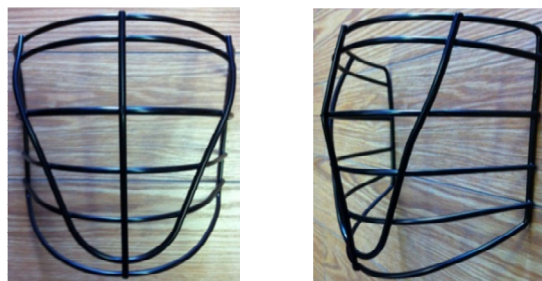
Questions have been raised regarding the status of facemasks that were permitted at all levels last season. Effective January 1, 2012, the examples shown below will NOT be permitted for those players who are 16 years of age and younger (minor lacrosse). This has been determined by the CLA to be a safety issue and as per CLA Rule 11(c), “players participating on the floor without an approved facemask shall be assessed a two-minute minor and ten-minute misconduct”. The player may return to the game upon completion of serving their penalty, but the equipment will not be permitted.

The examples shown below will still be permitted for players 17 years of age and older in major lacrosse games until December 31, 2012.

Gait Box Junior/Senior Facemask (NOT CSA APPROVED):



Gait Box Facemask Pro (NOT CSA APPROVED):



OTNY Pro 20/20 Facemask (NOT CSA APPROVED):



Should you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact:

Marc-Andre Filion, VP Technical  
Alberta Lacrosse Referees Association  
Phone: 780-240-0849  
Email: [vptechnical@alra.net](mailto:vptechnical@alra.net)

Dennis Deis, President  
Alberta Lacrosse Referees Association  
Phone: 403-819-9000  
Email: [president@alra.net](mailto:president@alra.net)