



## Technical Bulletin 14-05

### *Official Statement from the CLA regarding Facemask Policies*

The Canadian Lacrosse Association (CLA) has received some feedback from members regarding CLA policies on helmets and facemasks. The CLA is responding and advising all members as follows:

1. The CLA does not design, manufacture, test, approve nor certify helmets or facemasks; the CLA requires that players use only Canadian Standards Association (CSA) approved products. **The CLA and CSA are two different organizations.**
2. The CSA is the federal agency for certifying products. CSA-certification offers peace of mind to retailers, regulators, consumers and end users the world over by proving that products have been independently tested and have met the required standards for safety & performance.
3. When the CSA identified the need to develop a lacrosse-specific standard for facemasks, a technical sub-committee was utilized that is composed of CSA standard experts, CSA testing coordinators, technical experts, Health Canada representatives, doctors, manufacturers and representatives from various sports. This committee developed the standard for lacrosse facemasks and manufacturers are required to design facemasks to meet this standard. The masks are then tested by the CSA.
4. The certification process occurs between the manufacturer and the CSA. **The CLA has no say in which facemasks get approved.**
5. The CLA can make recommendations to the CSA technical sub-committee for lacrosse facemasks. In order to do so, we cannot approach the agency with tweets, e mails or phone calls regarding safety concerns. We need to compile objective and meaningful information. For this reason, **the CLA requires that, if there is an injury to the face area, an [incident report form](#) must be submitted.** We will not forward any other information to the CSA.
6. Please be reminded that any alterations whatsoever to the helmet or facemask, for example, replacing the chin cup with one that has not been CSA-approved for use with the facemask, will void the CSA certification and the manufacturer's warranty. This piece of equipment is illegal and will not be permitted on the field or floor and the applicable penalty will be assessed.
7. Additional information and technical bulletins related to equipment may be found on the [equipment page of the CLA website](#).

**The CLA's greatest priority is the safety of all members and participants.**

Please do not hesitate to contact CLA Program Coordinator, Ashley Raaymakers ([ashley@lacrosse.ca](mailto:ashley@lacrosse.ca) or 613-260-2028 ext. 301) should you have any additional questions or concerns.