

MISSOURI HOCKEY

As you know, USA Hockey recently implemented a new policy aimed at protecting coaches from head injuries while on the ice. Several facilities, parents, and spectators have contacted us over the past month asking about liability, risk management and enforcement of this new policy. As you can imagine we hoped that all coaches would abide by the new policy for several reasons. One, it makes sense, every year adults have been injured and even die, because they are not wearing protective head gear while on the ice. Secondly, leading by example is typically a good thing; teaching young athletes that following rules is an important part of life and in this case a part of our sport.

Missouri Hockey has moved forward and implemented a new policy of enforcement. Effective Nov, 1, 2006 Clubs/Associations who are found to have any persons while on the ice during a USAH sanctioned on-ice event not complying with the USAH Helmet rule will be subject to a \$100 fine for the first violation, a \$200 fine for the second violation, a \$300 fine for the third violation with progressive fines for each subsequent violation. All fines will be charged to the clubs and associations. Violations must be able to be verified and must be submitted in writing to Missouri Hockey with the date, time, rink, club, team, and coach observed to be in violation.

USA Hockey Helmet Policy for Coaches

From the 2006-2007 USA Hockey Annual Guide, page 134:

“All ice hockey coaches and instructors of registered USA Hockey youth/high school, disabled, girls/women’s 19 & under and below programs must properly wear an approved ice hockey helmet during all on-ice sessions, including practices, controlled scrimmages and coach and referee clinics (seminars).”