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TO: OWFL Clubs  
RE: Equipment Safety Update, 2024 Season  
DATE: February 15, 2024

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The OLA's Board of Directors has determined it prudent to mandate the use of protective eyewear, commonly referred to as "goggles" or "eye guards" (see Image 1 on Page 3) for Ontario Women's Field Lacrosse (OWFL) players in all divisions beginning in 2024. This decision, which is in effect for all events including practices, is made in the interest of player safety and is effective as of March 1, 2024.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

1. What is the scope of this decision / who does this apply to?

This ruling applies to all women's field lacrosse players at introductory levels, U7, U9, U11, U13, U15, U17, Team Ontario, Ontario Summer Games, U19 and JEWEL divisions of play which are sanctioned and overseen by the OWFL, including rep programs and house league programs. Protective equipment for goalkeepers is outlined a separate section of the World Lacrosse Women's Field Lacrosse Rule Book.

2. What specification(s) of equipment should be worn?

Protective eyewear for players must conform to the certification requirements listed in the World Lacrosse Women's Field Lacrosse Rulebook under Rule 6, APPENDIX G. The OLA recognizes the ASTM International standard (F3077-17) which bears the logo of the Safety Equipment Institute (SEI) as the industry-standard for player's eye guards; however, neither the OLA nor the OWFL will warrant the safety or effectiveness of the eye guard to the player wearing them, or monitor the effectiveness or fit to the player in regards to the ability to withstand impact from a ball, Crosse, opponent or any other object. As with all protective equipment, players are expected to maintain the appropriate fit and condition throughout each season.

3. Are there any exceptions to the protective eyewear ruling?

No. All women's field lacrosse players must wear eye guards in sanctioned events, including practices and games. Goalkeepers will continue to wear helmets with a full facemask and attached throat guard. Goalkeepers should not wear protective eyewear underneath their helmets.

4. An athlete wears glasses or sport glasses. Are they exempt?

No. In the event that an athlete wears glasses or sport glasses, which are permitted by Rule 6.A.4, their glasses or sport glasses must be worn *underneath* their goggles. Shatter-resistant frames and lenses are strongly recommended.

5. Are players permitted to wear helmets instead of protective eyewear?

World Lacrosse Rule 6.A.2 specifies that players are not permitted to wear headgear, helmets or facemasks (see Image 2 on Page 3). Only goalkeepers are permitted to wear helmets, and only in accordance with Rule 6.A.20.

6. Are there any modifications to the World Lacrosse Rule Book as part of this ruling?

Goggles are not currently mandated by World Lacrosse for international play. Therefore, the below excerpts from the World Lacrosse Women's Field Lacrosse Rule Book have been amended for all levels of OWFL play and OLA sanctioned events, as outlined in this ruling:

### **Rule 6 Uniforms and Equipment**

#### 6.A.2

Field players may wear close-fitting gloves, nose guards, **[and must wear]** eye guards **(ie. goggles)**. Field players are not permitted to wear headgear or face masks.

#### 6.A.3

Field players **[choosing to wear eye guards]** may only wear eye guards that comply with all safety aspects in APPENDIX G. Eye guards worn during a World Lacrosse contest must comply with the safety aspects listed in Rule 6, or meet certification requirements of any country, organization or standard. However, World Lacrosse does not guarantee the safety of the eye guard to the player wearing them, or other players. World Lacrosse does not monitor the safety or effectiveness of any eye guards, such as the ability to withstand impact from a ball or a Crosse, nor does World Lacrosse review or approve the certification process of any country, organization or standards organization.

### **Rule 19 Minor Fouls**

#### 19.A.5

A player must not take part in a game unless their equipment is legal.

**OWFL Guidance, Situation 1:** *Goggles are only legal if they are close fitting and fully covering the eyes of the athlete, worn as the manufacturer intended. Goggles that sit on the forehead or fall around a player's neck or to the ground, not as a result of an illegal actions by an opponent, may be called Illegal Equipment. Illegal Equipment should be called when the player is taking an active role in the play, meaning that a player who loses their goggles should stop and reset their goggles before rejoining the play.*

**OWFL Guidance, Situation 2:** *When a ball-carrier's goggles become dislodged, the official will blow their whistle to stop play while the player resets their equipment. The official should stop all clocks if the player is not able to reset their equipment quickly. If this occurs on a scoring drive, the official should hold their whistle until the scoring drive has completed. Otherwise, this is an immediate whistle.*

**OWFL Guidance, Situation 3:** *When a non-ball-carrier's goggles become dislodged, or when they are not wearing their goggles correctly (ie. around their neck, on their forehead, etc.) and continues to engage in play, they will be penalized with a minor foul for Illegal Equipment. Officials should use a held whistle (Advantage) when signalling this foul would disadvantage the ball-carrying team.*

**OWFL Guidance, Situation 4:** *All players' equipment is the responsibility of their team. Officials are not expected to judge the legality or condition of any equipment; they are only required to determine that the equipment is being worn in accordance with the manufacturer's intentions during play.*

For questions on this information, contact [vpfield@ontariolacrosse.com](mailto:vpfield@ontariolacrosse.com).



**SEI** Certified



Image 1: Goggles / Eye Guards / Protective Eyewear  
**LEGAL, MANDATORY**



Image 2: Headgear / Helmets (example: Cascade LX Women's Lacrosse Headgear)  
**ILLEGAL, NOT PERMITTED**