

Change:

The UKIHF rule book has been changed to make a visor the minimum face protection for ALL players aged 19 and all under 19 should wear full face protection in the form of a full cage or full visor, as per the World Skate Rulebook 2027 and UKIHF Rulebook 2026/27.

This is now minimum mandatory protection but as it involves expense & may be restricted by availability it has been decided to implement this change on 1st January 2027 apart from players age 18 and below who should continue to wear full face protection.

Any attempt to play without a visor or full face protection after 2026 will incur a penalty.

It is highly recommended to fit the required equipment as soon as possible and not to wait until the New Year.

All visors must be properly attached and worn with no significant tilt.

The 'WSK_Inline_Hockey Rulebook 2027' rule is shown below. Disregard the limitation to International Championships, UKIHF have adopted this.

Visor Requirements and Rules

Section 3.2.4 Protective Equipment

- All players, except goalkeepers, must wear shin guards, elbow pads, approved hockey gloves, approved helmets, face protection and protective cup if Male or pelvic protective equipment if Female at all times during the game.
- **Full-face protection must be attached to the helmet for everyone playing International Championships that is under the age of nineteen (19). This regulation applies to both men and women players.**
- **For all players over 19 years old, the mandatory equipment includes a helmet with Visor minimum.**
- **Visor must be worn properly as it is intended.**
 - Any visor worn in the offset position (i.e. tilted up exposing the eyes) during play will be given a Team warning. Any subsequent infractions by the same team will result in a Minor Penalty for illegal equipment assessed to that player. Warning must be delivered to the Player & Team Coach.
- A mouth guard is strictly recommended for players wearing a visor.

Section 3.2.6 Approval of Protective Equipment

- Helmets and face protection of players, as well as face masks of goalkeepers shall be HECC/CSA/CE approved.

Section 6.4.3 Illegal Equipment

- A Minor Penalty shall be imposed on any player wearing illegal protective equipment according to rule 3.2.4.
- A Minor Penalty shall be imposed, after one warning by the Referee, on any player for violation of provisions of rule 3.2.7 related to protective equipment.

Example Implementation

- If a player over 19 is on the rink, they must wear a helmet with at least a visor. If the visor is not properly positioned (e.g., tilted up), the team receives a warning. If the same team repeats the infraction, the player is penalized with a Minor Penalty for illegal equipment.
- For players under 19, a full-face shield is mandatory, not just a visor.

Summary Table

Player Age	Required Face Protection	Penalty for Improper Use
Under 19	Full-face protection (cage/shield)	Removal from play until corrected
19 and over	Helmet with visor (properly worn)	Team warning, then Minor Penalty

These rules ensure player safety and standardize equipment usage across all participants in the Inline Hockey World Championships.