



**NZWLA Position on Protective Headgear  
Updated February 2020**

The NZWLA has considered whether protective headgear be allowed in NZL sanctioned tournaments.

NZ Women's Lacrosse adheres to World Lacrosse rules with one amendment for NZL sanctioned events:

*Rule 21 A.2. Check to the Head (Mandatory card) A player must not strike an opponent with her Crosse or force an opponent's Crosse into an opponent's head or body. A yellow card must be given for a check that makes contact with a player's head. **NZWLA: The penalty for this yellow card will be 5 minutes.***

In regard to headgear, the World Lacrosse Women's Rules at 6E states: "*Field players are not permitted to wear headgear or face masks.*"

The NZWLA has decided that a region on behalf of a player may request dispensation to wear headgear in NZL sanctioned tournaments for special one off circumstances.

Should a player wish to seek dispensation to wear headgear in an NZL sanctioned tournament, then this request must be submitted in writing **by the player's region** to the NZWLA Secretary ([secretary@nzwlacrosse.nz](mailto:secretary@nzwlacrosse.nz)) with:

1. A medical certificate from a medical professional explaining why the player requires headgear;
2. The exact item the player is proposing to wear;
3. The reason(s) why, in the player's words, they wish to seek dispensation.

The dispensation will be considered by a Rules and Umpiring Subcommittee appointed by the NZWLA committee and reported back to the committee with a decision.

Any player seeking dispensation must provide their request as soon as possible but no later than one month prior to the tournament they wish to wear the headgear. A decision will be provided to the region no later than two weeks from receiving the request.