



ARCHBISHOP JORDAN SCOTS FOOTBALL

To maximize the safety of your son, and our players, and to keep costs reduced for families, it is **VITAL** that all appropriate precautions and care be taken during the season to ensure the equipment remain in top condition. It is recommended that the players themselves, and not the parents, be held responsible and accountable to take care of the equipment! Contaminants such as dirt, sweat and stains that are not removed on a regular basis will cause premature wear and aging of the uniforms and equipment, which negatively reflects on the personal and public image of our club and its players.

Also of major concern is the potential for **staph infections** due to poorly cleaned equipment. All team equipment (helmets, shoulder pads, misc. pads, etc.) was professionally sanitized by the team after last season, and the onus is now on the **players** and parents to continue to ensure the equipment stays clean so we can provide a sanitary environment for our team. Included at the end of this bulletin, is an article on staph infections for your additional information.

It is expected that all equipment be **cleaned & inspected on a regular basis, a minimum of once weekly**. Therefore, players are to inspect all their football equipment and remove all related clothing from the club house and take them home at the end of each week.

Important Notes:

- Avoid the use of products such as Febreeze on any equipment or uniforms. They are oil-based products that reduce the life of the equipment and may cause allergic reactions.

- Absolutely **NO** products containing bleach or abrasives are to be used on any equipment or clothing, under any circumstance!

Helmets and padding must be hung to dry after each use. With proper hanging in the club house, we can avoid many issues with the proper drying.

All other items including knee pads, thigh pads, girdles and associated padding, pants, gloves, socks and jerseys can be laundered normally in the washing machine.

- Please **hang dry** all equipment and jerseys

- Jerseys, pants and socks can be pre-treated with a commercial products such as Whisk on an as needed basis to help remove any stains prior to washing, and should be laid flat or hung to dry

- Remove staining or discoloration of thigh, hip, knee and tail pads with a pre-soak in mild detergent solution before using a **rough cloth** (& some good ole' elbow grease) to remove any residual contaminants

Note: Please note that **players will be held accountable for any instances of damage or neglect**, including the costs of repair or replacement, caused by failure to apply proper care to equipment and clothing. Please contact our equipment managers with any other questions or concerns you may have



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Staph Infections in Sports

Staph Infections Breed in Sports Equipment!

Staph infections are becoming an increasing problem in the world of amateur and professional sports. Researchers have discovered and unbelievable amount of bacteria residing within sports equipment. This unclean equipment, which is covered in mucus, sweat, blood and dead skin, provides a prime breeding ground for bacteria, fungus and mould. This leads to infections so severe, that children are becoming critically ill, and in some cases, dying as a result of these infections. This issue has been ignored until recently, when Staph Infections were traced back to the deaths of some American high school football players. The only common factor in their deaths is they all shared poorly cleaned sports equipment!

What is Staph Infection?

A Staph Infection is the result of skin exposure to the dreaded bacteria Staphylococcal Aureus. This bacterium can cause skin infections such as pimples, boils &/or infected wounds. It can also cause more serious, potentially life-threatening, bloodstream infections and pneumonia. "So, how does this affect my child?" you may be asking. Research has shown that the risk of an infection significantly increases when a child has been in contact with contaminated sports equipment. This has turned into a serious issue for players, coaches, parents and school administrators.

Who Needs to be Aware of This & Who Should Take Precautions?

Without question, leagues and organizations that are responsible for their own equipment need to be aware of the health risks (schools, hockey & football programs, lacrosse, ringette, etc.) This is especially important where the equipment is passed on from one person to the next, year after year. Craig McLeaod, owner of Calgary Sport Wash Centre, says, "The most important thing a parent can do for their child is to have their equipment cleaned." He goes on to say, "Many parents ignore the stench and just chalk it up to being part of the game. However, parents need to ask themselves, *What is causing this equipment to stink?* They will then realize that there's much more at stake. There's a health risk involved."

What is being done to prevent the Spread of this Disease?

Unfortunately, not much! Parents need to take action when it comes to their child wearing dirty, contaminated equipment. Equipment worn by others, then not properly cleaned, is like having your child sleep in a hotel bed where the sheets weren't changed between guests! Would this be acceptable to anyone checking in to a hotel? Of course not!

What Can I Do to Protect My Family?

PREVENTION IS KEY when it comes to eliminating the risk of being exposed to Staphylococcal Aureus. No one thinks it will happen to the – until it does! Clean your sports equipment weekly!!
I/We have read and understand the above information on how to prevent problems arising from Staphylococcal Aureus. I/We agree to care for our football equipment as outlined above.

Player Print: _____ Player Signature: _____

Parent Print: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____