

# SoftCap®

**Improve Player Safety  
Reduce The Risk  
Limit Your Liability**

**Hockey is one of the world's most physically demanding sports, filled with hard hits, and even harder landings. That's why we developed the SoftCap® Caprail System and introduced it to the market in 2006.**

SoftCap® is engineered to help reduce the likelihood and potential severity of injury to players, by providing a more forgiving surface at the caprail location of the boards, the most likely point of player contact, where injuries to the head, chin, mouth and elbow can occur. The impact of this innovation is two-fold: to improve player safety AND to reduce the risk and limit the liability of owners and operators of rinks everywhere.

SoftCap® is extruded with built-in voids to enhance the deflection of the caprail upon player impact. Made of an advanced, flexible thermoplastic elastomer, formal testing shows SoftCap® is 96% more compressive than the current HDPE caprail, meaning impacts are more readily absorbed and energy more rapidly attenuated by the softer surface of SoftCap®. Available standard in red or blue, and in a variety of optional or custom colors.

SoftCap® can be specified as part of your new CrystaPlex® or Pro Series™ dasherboard system, and can be retrofitted to many existing board systems as well. It's a good first step toward reducing injuries and reducing your risk – and it's reasonably priced when you consider the benefits.

Player safety is the way of the future for hockey at all levels. To date, 19 of 30 NHL arenas have installed our SoftCap® caprail system, along with several more of our safety devices on their CrystaPlex® 6A dashers. And, because of increased 'hockey injury' awareness, the number of community, college and university rinks in North America interested in making their dasherboards safer, is increasing.

With SoftCap®, we help make your facility a better, safer place to play!



What about so-called "flush-mounted" glass? Isn't no caprail better than a soft caprail?

*No, it really isn't.*

Athletica Sport Systems test-marketed a version of this design years ago, and we learned that when players are checked into the boards, the differential between the boards and the shielding allows the hips and shoulders to make contact at the same time, distributing impact evenly and more safely.

In addition, the overwhelming opinion of players was the caprail provides a necessary leverage point to help them keep their feet during scrums in the corner, or when cycling the puck.

And having no caprail takes away a valuable perch for game officials in need of quickly getting their feet out of the way of the play.

Removing the caprail isn't the answer.

*Improving it is.*

**CrystaPlex® is the innovator of the following product developments, created to maximize the enjoyment and safety of the great game of hockey for players, coaches and facility operators.**

**GlassFlex®**

The original flexible seamless glass shielding system, GlassFlex® provides players impact absorption up to 55% better than supported acrylic shielding, with great sight lines for spectators.

**CheckFlex®**

The working flexible dasher board system, CheckFlex® incorporates a 2" steel ice dam, saving labor and expense in change-overs, and providing the base for the boards to move rotationally – pivoting at the bottom of the boards, for flex from the anchors right up to the top of the shielding: the ultimate in flexibility upon significant impact.

**SoftCap®**

Using a thermo-plastic elastomer, SoftCap® enhances player safety by putting a more forgiving surface on the ice side of the cap rail, the most likely point of contact for players. The benefit to players – and their parents and coaches – is the expected reduction in the frequency and severity of injuries to the nose, mouth, chin, and elbow.

**Seamless Acrylic**

Our unique, NHL-approved seamless acrylic shielding - featuring the strong yet amazingly flexible HDM sleeve - provides players the most forgiving shielding system available; gives arena operators easier conversions due to lightweight CrystaPlex® 590 Plus acrylic, and offers the fans the super sightlines of seamless shielding. Nothing short of a revolution in hockey.

**Curved Terminations**

The Sport Systems Unlimited curved acrylic termination assembly is in use in 23 of the 30 NHL arenas. And now, we are bringing this player-safety breakthrough to community and other arenas around North America, and throughout the world.



Powerful CheckFlex® spring system allows boards and shielding to flex on impact.



Polycarbonate HDM sleeve; Strength with Flexibility



Testing curved acrylic termination at Athletica R&D Center



Innovations On Ice Since 1956

Your North American Dasherboard and Arena Services Partner.



Safety through innovation



Preferred Rink Equipment Supplier to the NHL and the AHL

