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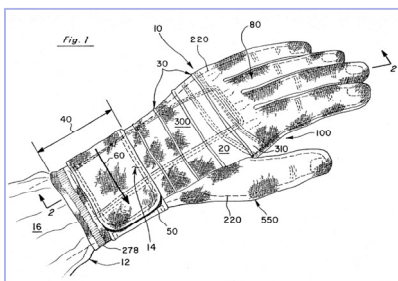
Snowboarding Safety Innovation

USPN 5,537,692 Snowboard Glove With Wrist Protection

Snowboarding Wrist Injuries: Annual Worldwide Injuries Likely Over 100,000

There is simply no doubt that beginner snowboarders fall more often than beginning skiers. The need to have both feet fixed in place, versus separate skis, causes falls that are generally straight backwards or straight forwards, placing both wrists at higher risk for injury. The simple physics of the equipment, including the inability to step out when balance is lost, make the risk of falls nearly impossible to avoid. Statistics bear out the distinct patterns of snowboarding injuries, having been studied many times. In fact, compared to about 12.5 percent of ski injuries including fractures, the rate of snowboarding fractures is double this percentage. Just five years ago, overall snowboarding accident statistics included 95,000 wrist injuries, a preventable number likely to have exceeded 100,000 by now.

The Solutions Recommended by the Industry: Training and Wrist Protection



During a fall, the natural instinct is to “FOOSH” or fall onto an out stretched hand. Safety training can help beginning snowboarders try to resist this urge and learn to fall more safely. To some extent, this training will help reduce their risk of wrist injury; but falling onto elbows or even facing the prospect of a “face plant” during a high speed fall makes following the training easier said than done. Better training alone has not proved itself as sufficient for eliminating injuries. Wrist protection safety equipment is also recommended to help reduce the risk of wrist injury. The ‘692 patent directly addresses this

need for wrist protection equipment in a novel and transparent way, making it inherent in the normal clothing worn by snowboarding enthusiasts.

Invented and Designed by a Snowboarder: The Art of Bryan Dorr

AmiCOUR IP Group is pleased to represent the patent art of inventor Bryan Dorr. Bryan is a resident of Colorado and a snowboarding enthusiast. Aware of the number of wrist injuries, he then weighed the benefits of getting on and off the slopes quickly with a minimum of inconvenience. External wrist guards just didn’t meet the needs of modern snowboarders. Bryan carefully identified the elements and design requirements necessary to make a safe, affordable, and convenient snow board glove with wrist protection. In 1995, he applied for patent protection and was granted his ‘692 patent in 1996.

An Established and Growing Market: Snowboarding Safety Equipment

This past year’s record winter sport season further expanded the ski and snowboarding market. In addition, there has been increased awareness of safety for all action sporting, and new generation enthusiasts do not shy away from investing in this equipment. The winter sports industry is experiencing across the board growth in new or improved safety products that range from better helmets to safer bindings, and, of course, the recommended wrist protection solutions for snowboarders. The novel approach taught and claimed in the ‘692 patent promises to be among the winners in this rapidly growing market.

For more information...

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