
NEWS RELEASE

NOCSAE Position Statement

PHOENIX, AZ (Sept. 4, 2013) – Recently, the AIA has been approached by several manufacturers of aftermarket helmet products that claim to detect or minimize impact.

Football helmets used in AIA sanctioned games are required to meet National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) performance standards.

1.5.1

a – Helmet and Face Mask:

1. A helmet and face mask which met the NOCSAE test standard at the time of manufacture. The face mask shall have surface covered with resilient material designed to prevent chipping, burrs or abrasiveness and be properly secured to the helmet as designed by the manufacturer.

NOCSAE certification involves rigorous internal product testing, independent laboratory testing and a sound quality assurance program. Each helmet and face mask model is certified by the manufacturer to meet NOCSAE performance standards.

Unfortunately, the manufacturer certification is void if the helmet or facemask is modified in any way. As an organization, the AIA neither promotes nor endorses any product. Our Sports Medicine Advisory Committee has maintained that the AIA is not the appropriate organization to evaluate or test such types of products and thus we must continue to require that only football helmets meeting the NOCSAE standard be used in AIA sanctioned events. There is presently no limit on using such gear in practice or non-AIA sanctioned events.

As an organization committed to the safety and wellbeing of every member student, we encourage these manufacturers to work with NOCSAE and helmet manufacturers regarding NOCSAE performance standards.

AIA Media Contact: Brian Bolitho; Director of Business Media; bbolitho@aiaonline.org; 602-385-3822