



NOCSAE Overview

NOCSAE, the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment, is an independent and nonprofit standard-setting body with the sole mission to enhance athletic safety through scientific research and the creation of performance standards for protective equipment. Formed in 1969, NOCSAE is a leading force in the effort to improve athletic equipment and, as a result, reduce injuries. NOCSAE efforts include the development of performance and test standards for football helmets and facemasks, baseball and softball batters and catchers helmets, baseballs and softballs, ice hockey helmets, soccer shinguards, lacrosse helmets and facemasks and polo helmets.

NOCSAE Leadership

NOCSAE brings together team physicians, academic researchers, coaches, certified athletic trainers and manufacturers to establish equipment performance standards for the protection of athletes. Serving without compensation, NOCSAE's board of directors is comprised of representatives selected by the following organizations:

- American College of Sports Medicine
- American College Health Association
- American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine
- Athletic Equipment Managers Association
- American Medical Society for Sports Medicine
- National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association
- National Athletic Trainers' Association
- Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association
- American Football Coaches Association

Football Helmet Standards

NOCSAE has established the most rigorous standards for football helmets in the world. Originally established in 1973, NOCSAE regularly has changed and updated the football helmet performance and testing standards – making them tougher to comply with to better protect the athlete. NOCSAE'S standards require testing football helmet performance across all levels of impact. Helmets either pass or fail the standard based on an impact energy evaluation called the Severity Index (SI). To be certified, helmets must score less than 1200 SI on 16 impacts at eight impact locations, including four lower level impacts. The SI threshold is based on years of science and research. NOCSAE standards are adopted by various regulatory bodies for sports, including the NCAA and the National Federation of State High School Associations, as well as the United States Department of Defense Education Activity which oversees and regulates military base athletic programs, including football, for the children of military families around the world.

Research

NOCSAE is the leading nongovernmental source for research funding in the area of sport-related concussion. Since 2000, NOCSAE has devoted nearly \$3 million toward understanding sport-related concussions and supporting research by the foremost experts in sports medicine and science to develop and advance athlete safety. Currently NOCSAE is making plans to review and potentially fund an additional \$2 million in focused research grants in the area of concussions and helmet performance.

Funding

NOCSAE is an independent, nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization which is funded primarily through licensing fees it charges to equipment manufacturers that want to certify or recertify equipment to the NOCSAE standards. Manufacturers and reconditioners are obligated by contract license agreement to test helmets to make sure they meet the NOCSAE standards and to provide independent, third-party validation of their certifications to the NOCSAE standard. Approximately 75 to 80 percent of all revenue collected from these license fees is reinvested into education and research to advance the science and safety of athletes.