

HELMETS

The Board of Education (the “Board”) takes its obligation to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all students very seriously. The Board recognizes that concussions and head injuries are the most commonly reported injuries in students participating in interscholastic sports. To this end, the Board has established certain rules and regulations for students who participate in interscholastic athletic activities, specifically with respect to the protective headgear, (i.e. helmets), required for participation in interscholastic football. Parents and students are reminded that participation in this activity is a privilege granted to those students who comply with and maintain necessary eligibility criteria, as provided in Board Policy 7420. In addition, parents and students must be aware that while no helmet can guarantee the prevention of serious injury to the head or neck, this Regulation is adopted as a means to reduce the potential of injury to students who elect to participate in interscholastic athletics.

In order for students to maintain eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics, the following requirements for football helmets must be strictly complied with:

- All helmets used by participants, including those purchased privately by students and/or parents, must bear the permanent seal, “Meets NOCSAE standards” and include the “NOCSAE” logo on the helmet.
- Participants intending to privately purchase a helmet for use in interscholastic athletics must consult with the District **prior** to such purchase. In addition, such participants and their parents shall be required to read and sign a District “Helmet Waiver Form.”
- All helmets, including those helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents, shall be turned over to the District each year, at a time specified by the Coach and/or Athletic Director, for reconditioning and recertification by a NOCSAE licensed agency.
- All helmets, including those helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents, shall be properly fitted to each student.
- All helmets, including those helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents, shall be inspected by the District before use, for items including, but not limited to, damage to the helmet shell or liner, holes, loose hardware and/or loose face masks. If a helmet shows any of the above signs, including those helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents, the District reserves the right to prohibit its use.
- Participants shall not modify, change or alter in any way, any football helmet, including those helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents, except as otherwise approved by the District.

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- Participants shall not remove any warranty labels, warning labels, logos or stickers from any helmets, including those helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents. This includes, but is not limited to, the “NOCSAE” logo and/or any stickers warning of the risk of injury.
- Participants shall use helmets only for their proper purpose, i.e. no head butting, ramming or spearing of other players.
- Users of helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents should be familiar with the helmet warranty associated with the brand of helmet purchased. The District may prohibit any helmet determined by the District to have a void warranty due to the user’s failure to comply with the applicable conditions for warranty, from use.

In addition to the above, the following maintenance procedures are highly recommended in order to minimize the risk of injury to participants:

- Users of District-supplied helmets should only employ factory authorized paints, cleaners, waxes, adhesives, guards and/or attachments, as determined by the District.
- Users should regularly clean and sanitize all football equipment to avoid the transmission of pathogens, including, but not limited to, bacteria, viruses, mold and/or staphylococcus.
- Users of helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents are strongly encouraged to refer to the specific instructions for care/maintenance instructions for that particular helmet.

In an effort to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all participants, the District reserves the right to prohibit a student from using a privately purchased football helmet. Should this occur, the District shall provide a District-owned football helmet, at no cost to the student.

Reference: BP 6145.2 “Athletic Competition