National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association

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September 1, 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

NAERA (National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association), NOCSAE (National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment) and helmet manufacturers are informing you of reconditioning and recertification recommendations for football, lacrosse, baseball and softball helmets.

NAERA recommends that during every football, lacrosse, baseball and softball season or practice period, every helmet should be cleaned and inspected regularly by a school or organization staff member with knowledge of manufacturer recommendations. We further recommend every helmet should be reconditioned and recertified annually unless stated otherwise by the manufacturer. ONLY a company licensed by NOCSAE can perform the recertification of football, lacrosse, baseball and softball helmets. For a list of NAERA members that are licensed by NOCSAE please visit our web site www.naera.net. More information regarding NOCSAE and their standards can be found at www.nocsae.org.

Reconditioning/Recertification and Sanitization: NAERA recommends every football, lacrosse, baseball and softball helmet be reconditioned and recertified prior to being issued to all athletes, unless stated otherwise by the manufacturer. NAERA further recommends that nonrecertifiable equipment, including but not limited to, football and lacrosse shoulder pads, chest protectors and shin guards be sanitized in accordance to manufacturer guidelines.

On January 1, 2017 NOCSAE put into effect standard ND 001 6.1.1 shown below.

ND 001 6.1.1. Helmets intended to be recertified shall have a recertification interval provided by the manufacturer. Certification life is limited to this time period. Helmets not recertified during the stated interval shall no longer be certified. Recertification interval required for warranty validation shall satisfy this requirement.

What does ND 001 6.1.1 mean for your school or organization? For **Football** helmets, as of this writing, the requirements from all football helmet manufacturers for recertification is a ***minimum*** of every other year. If you acquired new helmets in 2022 these helmets will need recertification per this standard for 2024 play.

Helmets that have a lapsed certification per NOCSAE DOC. 001 may be recertified under most conditions. Always ask your NAERA representative if you have doubts. **Remember when your team Captain or Coach tells the official your team is legally equipped, you need to know that is correct and factual.**

Every state association playing under NFHS (National Federation of State High School Associations) and NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) rules has adopted the NOCSAE standards for football, lacrosse, baseball and softball helmets. Other state associations may have similar rules; however, most support the helmet manufactures recommendations.

NAERA encourages schools and organizations to send your equipment for reconditioning and recertification as soon as your season is complete. Please make certain you are using a reconditioning company licensed by NOCSAE. For a list of NOCSAE licensed athletic equipment reconditioners visit www.naera.net.

Sincerely,
Tony Beam
Tony Beam, BA, E.S., CAA

Recertification and Reconditioning of Sports Equipment

Understanding the Process

Recertification and reconditioning are necessary to preserve helmet and faceguard protectiveness.

To maintain the original certification, which means proof of compliance to a NOCSAE standard, helmets and faceguards must be reconditioned and recertified according to manufacturer instructions. NOCSAE is the only standards organization that provides a standard for equipment recertification. NOCSAE athletic equipment standards are based on extensive study and scientific understanding of the mechanisms of sport injuries. NOCSAE also funds millions of dollars in research to inform ongoing updates to standards.

These are some of the efforts, in combination with reconditioning and recertification, that ensure certified equipment continues to be as protective as possible across its useful life.

Equipment manufacturers are required to prove compliance to a certification authority, and to satisfy the certifier that they have substantial quality control and quality assurance programs in place.

National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association (NAERA) members are licensed by NOCSAE to recertify select helmets and faceguards. This involves highly technical testing procedures to ensure athletic equipment continues to meet NOCSAE's protective standards. Recertification primarily applies to football helmets and faceguards. In addition, lacrosse helmets and softball/baseball helmets are eligible for recertification.

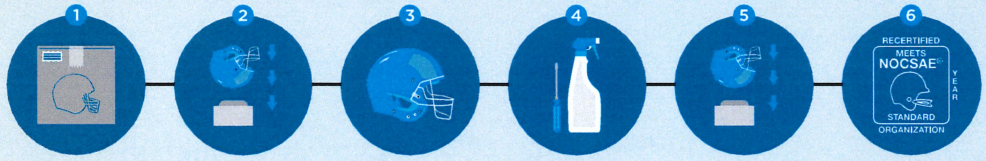
Reconditioning

The inspection, cleaning, sanitizing and repair/restoration of athletic equipment to the original performance standard.

Recertification

Retesting previously certified athletic equipment to ensure the equipment continues to meet the original requirements of the NOCSAE standard. The process includes updated labeling.

TESTING AND RECERTIFICATION PROCESS FOR FOOTBALL HELMETS



1. Ship When Season Ends
2. Test Sample Of Helmets
3. Visually Inspect All Helmets
4. Recondition, Repair & Clean
5. Retest Samples From Step 2
6. Recertify & Label

A random sample of helmets goes through a comprehensive assessment and two rounds of the NOCSAE drop test, conducted before and after reconditioning.

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What athletic equipment is eligible for recertification?

NOCSAE publishes recertification standards only for football helmets and faceguards, lacrosse helmets and faceguards, and softball and baseball helmets. Follow manufacturer guidelines for recertification. Some manufacturers do not permit certain models to be recertified. Equipment that is not permitted to be recertified must include a permanent label that specifies when the original certification to NOCSAE standards expires.

Is reconditioning and recertification required by manufacturers? How often?

To maintain the original certification, helmets must be recertified according to manufacturer instructions. The interval for recertification can vary according to each manufacturer's requirements.

Who is responsible for sending helmets to NAERA facilities to be reconditioned and recertified?

High schools, universities, private leagues and even individual owners are responsible for ensuring their equipment is reconditioned and recertified. NAERA recommends end-of-season reconditioning along with regular inspection and cleaning during in-season use. Inspections and cleanings should be done by a school or organization staff member who has knowledge of manufacturer recommendations.

If a school has helmets that weren't used during the last season, should those be sent to a NAERA facility for reconditioning and recertification?

Yes, those helmets may need recertification. The frequency of recertification is determined by years elapsed (not by use) since the last recertification. If a certified helmet is not recertified within the interval specified by the manufacturer, the existing certification expires. An expired certification can be renewed by recertification.

How long does the reconditioning and recertification process take?

On average, the reconditioning and recertification process takes six or more weeks. In some cases, helmets are stored when received and put through the reconditioning and recertification process closer to the delivery date requested by the school. Production time at NAERA facilities may vary.

When helmets arrive at a NAERA facility how are they processed and selected for NOCSAE drop testing?

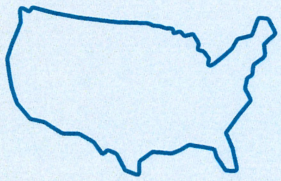
When helmet shipments are received, random samples are tagged for testing. These randomly selected helmets are tested by a technician both before and after reconditioning using the NOCSAE drop test, which requires specialized equipment. All helmets are carefully analyzed and go through a thorough reconditioning process.

How are helmets labeled once the recertification and reconditioning process is completed?

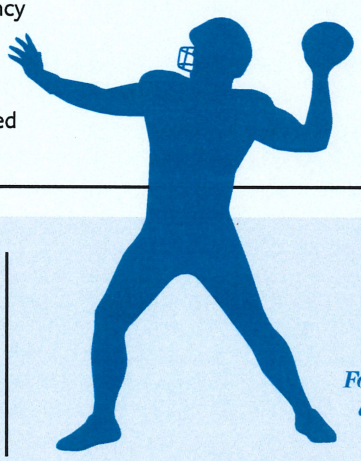
A dated recertification label is added to every helmet with the name of the NAERA recertifying facility and year of recertification. These labels clearly state: This helmet has been recertified according to procedures established to meet the NOCSAE Standard.

What steps are taken to ensure quality control in the recertification and reconditioning process at NAERA facilities?

NAERA's NOCSAE-licensed members across the United States are inspected regularly by a third party to confirm quality control assurance.



NAERA has multiple licensed member facilities throughout the U.S. For a complete list, visit www.naera.net.



1.4m+

Football helmets reconditioned and recertified each year by NAERA members.

6+ weeks

Average timing for the reconditioning and recertification process at a NAERA facility.

10 years

In most cases, football helmets can be recertified until the helmet is 10 years old per NAERA and manufacturer guidelines.

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