

NEWS

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Statement from the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment *Regarding Virginia Tech Star Rating System*

"The National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) believes additional research in the very important area of athlete safety can be helpful in understanding concussions and help parents and athletes make choices about what equipment to wear. However, we caution against an over-reliance on any individual data point, rating or measurement which could lead to inaccurate conclusions or even a false sense of security that one helmet brand or model guarantees a measurably higher level of concussion protection than another for a particular athlete.

"A concussion in football is a very complex event involving different and changing forces, linear and rotational accelerations, impact duration, player concussion history and overall health, and potentially even genetics. Virginia Tech's rating system approaches a very broad and complex issue from a narrow vantage point of linear accelerations only and does not address rotational accelerations, which the consensus of scientific experts agree are involved in many, if not almost all, concussive events.

"NOCSAE urges parents of athletes and athletes to get all the facts about football helmets and concussion protection. Your child's or your safety is too important to rely on only one partial measurement of helmet performance. "

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For the most reliable information regarding helmets and concussion and injury protection and prevention, NOCSAE encourages athletes and parents to carefully review:

- *Hang tags that come with all new football helmets that address the helmet's abilities and limitations*
- *Informational booklets developed by manufacturers that contain critical information about the helmet's abilities and limitations*

- *Warning information that is prominently affixed to the exterior of every helmet*
- *Free downloadable resources created by the Centers for Disease Control regarding concussion recognition, response and prevention. Those resources can be found at www.cdc.gov/concussion/sports/*

For more information, please visit www.nocsa.org.

About NOCSAE

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 shin guards, lacrosse helmets and facemasks and polo helmets. NOCSAE is comprised of representatives from a number of groups which have an interest in athletic equipment – including manufacturers, reconditioners, athletic trainers, coaches, equipment managers, sports medicine and consumer organizations. These diverse interests have joined forces in an attempt to arrive at a common goal of reducing sports-related injuries. NOCSAE is a nonprofit, charitable organization supported by individuals and organizations with an interest in athletics.