



Memo to All Officials Regarding NOCSAE Decision

On Monday, November 24, 2014, NOCSAE (National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment) issued a statement announcing that it had voided the manufacturer's certification of compliance for all manufacturing dates, for the Cascade Model R and the Warrior Regulator lacrosse helmets (see photo below).



Please note: the Cascade models CPV-R, CPX-R and CS-R and the Warrior TII are not affected by this decision by NOCSAE.

Until the manufacturers and NOCSAE are able to remedy and re-certify these helmets, the Model R and Regulator are both illegal at all levels of play and by all rules that mandate helmets meet NOCSAE standards and be NOCSAE certified.

Until further notice we are asking all officials, prior to the game, to add the following statement to the pre-game certification for head coaches. Officials are encouraged to meet with both coaches together at midfield to conduct this certification.



“Coach, are you aware that the Cascade Model R and Warrior Regulator helmet models do not meet the NOCSAE standard for lacrosse at this time and they are not legal for play? With this in mind, do you certify all players are equipped by rule and that all helmets including the goalkeepers meet the NOCSAE standard for lacrosse helmets?”

In the women’s and girls’ games, officials are asked to check the helmets of the goalkeepers during the pre-game stick check to ensure that the helmets worn are not the two in question.

In both games, during the game if a coach requests an equipment check or random equipment check is performed, officials are asked to check the helmet of the player to ensure that the helmets in question are not being worn.



No player is permitted to wear either of these helmets during play until further notice. NOCSAE certification is a testing process and standard required in order to keep players safe and minimize risk for all players in both the boys’ and girls’ games.

If a player is discovered to be wearing this helmet once play has begun, the officials should stop play immediately and the player shall be substituted for and removed from play until they are equipped with a NOCSAE certified helmet. If the player wearing the illegal helmet is the goalkeeper, and the team does not have a backup goalkeeper, the goalie may exchange for a legal goalkeeper helmet and resume playing.

Remember, as an official you are simply adjudicating and applying the rules as written. By not enforcing this rule you could be putting yourself and the safety of the athletes on the field at risk. It is imperative that you enforce this standard and rule at all tournaments and games until further notice.



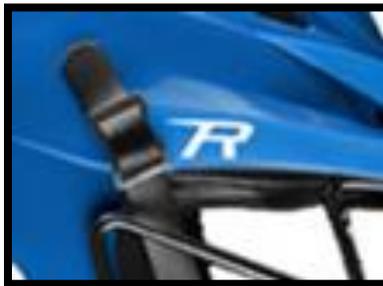
If a coach protests or asks questions in regards to this ruling direct them to reach out to NOCSAE or either of the helmet manufacturers for clarification.

Here are a couple frequently asked questions that you may encounter.

How do I know what helmet is legal or not?

Please use the pictures above and below as references. The easiest way to determine which helmet is which is to look for a couple key design features.

On the Cascade Model R helmet, there is a big "R" on the right side of the helmet on the visor.



On the Warrior Regulator the most distinguishable feature is the air vents in the temple area of the helmet is a long triangular shape (Warrior's TII helmet as a bigger opening and the lettering "TII" is visible in the vent)



Why is this important?

The safety of the players is the most important thing and is everyone's responsibility in the game. That includes the manufacturers of sports equipment. NOCSAE creates standards for sports equipment to ensure that equipment worn by athletes meets certain performance standards. Without these standards it is much more difficult for manufacturers to develop products within certain guidelines based on scientific research and data.



What is the penalty?

In both games and at all levels, if the player(s) are wearing these helmets then they are not permitted to play in the game. If discovered prior to the game, no penalty is adjudicated, however that player or player(s) may not enter the game until a legal helmet is worn.

In the men's or boys' game, if discovered during the game at any time, play should be stopped immediately and the player shall be substituted for and may not return until a legal helmet is worn. If discovered after a goal is scored, the goal stands. If the penalty is on the goalkeeper and the team does not have a backup goalie, he may exchange his helmet for a legal one and resume playing.

In the women's or girls' game, if discovered during the game at any time, a minor foul is adjudicated and the player must be substituted for until a legal helmet is worn. If the penalty is on the goalkeeper and the team does not have a backup goalie, she may exchange her helmet for a legal one and resume playing. If they do have a legal goalkeeper helmet, then the team shall play without a goalkeeper.

Who do I contact for more information?

If you are an official and you have a question on how to handle this situation on an upcoming game please contact US Lacrosse at officials@uslacrosse.org.

Coaches, players, administrators and parents seeking further information about these two helmet models are advised to contact the manufacturers directly: [Cascade](#) (1-800-537-1702); [Warrior](#) (1-800-968-7845).

What is US Lacrosse's role in this issue?

US Lacrosse's sole role in this is to disseminate the necessary information to our constituents involved in the game. While US Lacrosse as well as NFHS and the NCAA require NOCSAE certified helmets for all games, the standards are created and monitored by NOCSAE.