

Q&A from US Lacrosse regarding the NOCSAE decision with regard to Cascade Model R and Warrior Regulator Helmets

As many of you are by now aware in the last 10 days or so, NOCSAE has revoked the license on the Cascade R model helmet and the Warrior Regulator helmet, thereby making them illegal for play at ALL levels and genders.

1. **What happens if a player is wearing one during a game?** The official should immediately stop play and have the player leave the field and change the helmet.
2. **What is the penalty for a player found to be wearing one of these helmets?** No foul should be called or penalty assessed. Think of it like a missing end cap. The player comes off the field, the stick is fixed, and the player may re-enter the game.
3. **What if my whole team wears either of these helmets?** Cascade has come out and said on their website that if you are in immediate need of a replacement, they are available. Direct the coach to the manufacturers website for instructions on how to obtain replacements, etc...Officials have been instructed to not allow a game to happen if every player participating is not wearing an approved helmet.
4. **What if the goalie is wearing one?** This is treated just like the field player. The goalie must leave the field, swap helmets (including the throat guard) and then may re-enter the game. If only one goalie is available, it should be charged as an officials timeout and the goalie is given time to make the necessary switch.
5. **Why did NOCSAE revoke the license?** Bottom line, we're not NOCSAE and we won't comment on the testing procedures of either the manufacturers or NOCSAE. All we know is that NOCSAE tested the helmets based on information they received and found these two models to not be compliant with their standards.
6. **How do I know if my players are wearing one of these models?** Coaches can visit the manufacturer websites and view images.
7. **What if we have a waiver that says it's ok for our player(s) to wear one of these models?** Doesn't matter, they still will not be permitted on the field and will be removed if they do find their way on, regardless of any type of waiver. At this time no such waiver exists or is supported by US

Lacrosse in any manner.

8. **When will this be fixed?** We don't know.
9. **What is my duty as a coach in all of this?** Make sure your players and their parents are aware of this change and do not let athletes participate in any lacrosse activity if they are not legally equipped. You have a standard of care as a coach to ensure the safety of your players. Knowingly or unknowingly allowing them onto the field in any situation with an illegal helmet puts you at risk for liability in the event of a lawsuit.
10. **Why did US Lacrosse do this, it's so inconvenient for all the parents and what not that have spent \$100's of dollars on these helmets?** This was not a US Lacrosse decision. NOCSAE is independent of USL and they revoked the license on the helmets based on their testing. As the sport's national governing body, one of US Lacrosse's primary roles is to promote the highest possible safety standards through its rules and policies. US Lacrosse did not have any input in NOCSAE's decision to de-certify these helmets, but takes the responsibility, along with the NCAA and NFHS, to communicate this information to its membership and to the greater lacrosse community. US Lacrosse has also communicated with the manufacturers involved in order to help share the information that they are making available to their consumers.
11. **Can we still wear them in games/practice/scrimmages/"unofficial" events?** The short answer is no. The rules of lacrosse, as written by US Lacrosse, the NCAA and the NFHS (National Federation of High Schools), all state that helmets worn in games must meet NOCSAE certification. Since these two helmets are not currently NOCSAE certified, they will not be allowed until further notice. All US Lacrosse certified men's and women's game officials have been asked to meet with coaches prior to the game to verify that these helmets are not being used by players. Also, see #9 regarding a coach and the standard of care they must exercise.