

National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association

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www.naera.net

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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 2024 these helmets will need recertification per this standard for 2027 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 NAERA athletic equipment reconditioners visit www.naera.net.

Sincerely,

Tony Beam

Tony Beam, BA, E.S., CAA

NAERA Recommendations for Reconditioning and Recertification:

Ensuring Quality, Safety, and Reliability

When it comes to the maintenance, longevity, and safety of your athletic equipment, selecting a reputable source for reconditioning and recertification is crucial. All members of the National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association (NAERA) possess the necessary expertise and are licensed by the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) to recondition and recertify your equipment to the highest industry standards. The NAERA logo is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that your reconditioning requirements are met by a member of NAERA.

Expertise and Accreditation

NAERA members are comprised of recognized professionals who have demonstrated exceptional skill and commitment in the field of athletic equipment reconditioning. Each member adheres to strict guidelines and protocols to ensure that every item reconditioned meets or exceeds all applicable safety requirements. Additionally, as a NOCSAE licensee, they are authorized to recertify any equipment eligible for recertification.

Commitment to Safety

Safety is at the heart of every NAERA member's operation. By entrusting your equipment to NAERA members, schools, teams, and organizations can rest assured that their gear is maintained according to the latest standards and best practices. This commitment helps protect athletes and promotes fairness and integrity in all levels of competition.

Guidance for purchasing equipment that will need to be recertified

- What is the recommended schedule for reconditioning and recertification? For example, football helmets, likely need to be collected immediately after the season so they can be reconditioned and recertified to the recommended interval of annually, and returned before the next equipment issue date.
- How can we budget for equipment reconditioning, recertification, replacement, and emergency repairs throughout the school year? For example, an athletic director may want to separate annual reconditioning costs from long-term replacement costs for helmets, shoulder pads, and other protective equipment.
- Can the reconditioner provide reports that help identify equipment nearing the end of its usable life? For example, a report may help the school plan for phased replacement instead of facing a large, unexpected purchase all at once.
- How should coaches be trained to identify equipment that should be removed from use and sent for inspection? For example, coaches should know how to flag equipment with cracks, missing hardware, improper modifications, counterfeit or incorrect labeling, loose padding, or signs of heavy wear.
- What turnaround times should we expect during peak reconditioning seasons? For example, schools may need to confirm deadlines before sending equipment out so they can avoid delays before camps, practices, or first games.
- How can we ensure equipment purchases align with future reconditioning and recertification requirements? **For example, before purchasing new equipment, the school should confirm whether the item can be serviced, recertified when applicable, and supported with replacement parts by the reconditioner of their choice.**

Customer Assurance

Whether you are responsible for outfitting a large sports program, managing multiple teams, or are an individual athlete, choosing a NAERA member ensures that your equipment is handled by trained experts who take pride in their work and understand the responsibility that comes with athlete safety. NAERA members are committed to doing the work correctly, consistently, and with careful attention to the standards that matter most.

In summary, NAERA members are fully functional, NOCSAE licensed, and prepared to recondition and recertify eligible equipment, giving customers peace of mind and confidence in every game and practice. For the ongoing safety, performance, and reliability of athletic gear, NAERA members are trusted partners you can count on. Do not wait until equipment questions become last-minute problems. Choose a NAERA member today and put your program, your athletes, and your season in expert hands.

NAERA MEMBERSHIP;

Athletic Equipment Repair
Athletic Helmet Reconditioning
Athletic Helmet Reconditioning SE
Capitol Varsity Sports
Certor

Continental Athletics
Dip Fusion
Flat Land
Harco Reconditioning
Integrity Sports Services

Mercury Sports
Proline
Sportsman's Reconditioning
Stadium System
USA Reconditioning