



"Commissioning research and establishing standards for athletic equipment, where feasible, and encouraging dissemination of research findings on athletic equipment and sports injuries."

The National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment

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NOCSAE Statement on Lacrosse Ball Refinishing and Reconditioning

The National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE®) has addressed the issue of refurbishing, resurfacing, or reconditioning used lacrosse balls.

An SEI certification of compliance with NOCSAE® standards for new lacrosse balls means that certified balls meet specifications as to weight, circumference, compression-displacement (C-D), and coefficient of restitution (COR). Compliance with these specifications requires a significant quality control and quality assurance program so that no balls will fall outside those specifications. These specifications are not just for the performance of the ball, but they are integral to the performance of the helmet since the balls used to test lacrosse helmets must meet the NOCSAE standards. For example, reducing the ball size, mass, C-D or COR from refurbishing the surface could result in a ball getting through the faceguard openings resulting in injury.

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Resurfacing a lacrosse ball will reduce the weight and circumference, and may change the dynamic performance properties of C-D and COR. There are no quality control or quality assurance restrictions on this refinishing process, so it is impossible for any refurbisher or seller of refurbishing equipment to guarantee that using these procedures will not affect the certification or performance of the ball as required by the NOCSAE standards. Balls that have been refurbished are in a different condition than they were in when they were initially tested and certified. This change will negate the original certification, even if the NOCSAE and SEI logos are still visible.

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About NOCSAE

NOCSAE, the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment, is an independent and nonprofit standards development body with the mission to enhance athletic safety through scientific research and the creation of performance standards for athletic equipment. Formed in 1970, 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, gloves and facemasks, baseball and softball batter's and catcher's helmets, baseballs and softballs, ice hockey helmets, soccer shin guards, lacrosse helmets and facemasks, and polo helmets. NOCSAE is comprised of a board of directors representing stakeholders from a number of groups – including consumer and end users, equipment manufacturers and reconditioners, athletic trainers, coaches, equipment managers, and academic and sports medicine associations. 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. For more information, please visit www.nocsae.org.

American College Health Association Athletic Equipment Managers Association American College of Sports Medicine American Football Coaches Association
American Medical Society for Sports Medicine American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine American Academy of Pediatrics
National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association National Athletic Trainers Association Sports & Fitness Industry Association
National Collegiate Athletic Association National Federation of State High School Associations