



Memorandum

To: NFHS Member State Association Baseball Liaisons

From: B. Elliot Hopkins, MLD, CAA, Baseball Rules Editor

Subject: Compliance of Cheek and Jaw Protectors

Date: September 27, 2018

Good Evening,

We have received numerous inquiries regarding cheek and jaw protectors that are prominent at higher levels of baseball competition. NFHS Rule 1-5-2 allows a face mask/guard to be attached to a batting helmet at the time of manufacture and shall meet the NOCSAE performance standard at the time of manufacture. It is extremely difficult for a third-party cheek/jaw protector to meet that criteria with another manufacturer's batting helmet without violating the batting helmet's warranty and protection elements.

We have not been provided any documentation by a batting helmet manufacturer approving a third-party device to be attached to their product yet. We welcome that correspondence and data. Currently, there are several batting helmet manufacturers that have a cheek/jaw protector that when attached to their batting helmet, meets the NOCSAE face mask/guard performance standard. It is our understanding that the list of batting helmet manufacturers will grow exponentially with their own cheek/jaw protector/ helmet product offering this upcoming baseball season. We are available to assist you as new and updated information is made available. Please do not hesitate to contact our office with interpretations questions regarding this rule. Thank you for your time and support. Have a great fall.