

5A-6A Athletic Directors, B-4A Principals and Head Football Coaches in All Classes,

Please see below a note from the NFHS Executive Director Bob Gardner in regard to recent testing of football helmets by the NFL and the NFL Players Association. The data from the testing is in a document at the link below. I wanted you to be aware of this data on football helmets as you prepare for future football seasons; however, do not interpret this email and data as an endorsement by OSSAA for any helmet or helmet manufacturer. ***READ*** carefully the information in the right column of data results as the narrative addresses specifically how this data should be interpreted.

“The NFL in collaboration with the NFLPA released the results of a 2018 helmet laboratory testing performance. The bottom ten helmets in the results are listed as prohibited helmets for the NFL. We want to clarify that while these ten helmets from various manufacturers are no longer in production, they are permissible for play under the current NFHS rules provided they met the NOSCAE standard at time of manufacture and provided the helmets have been properly re-certified as required. That being said, you may want to share the NFL-NFLPA test results with your schools. NOSCAE plans to release additional information on or after May 1. If there are any changes following that release, we will provide an update to state associations.”

**Bob Gardner
Executive Director
National Federation of State High School Associations**



BETTER LABORATORY PERFORMANCE

TOP-PERFORMING GROUP



PROHIBITED HELMETS³



¹New models not previously worn by NFL players

²Results shown are for the Speedflex Precision with interior padding customized for the testing headform. Actual performance and ranking may vary since these helmets are customized for each player's head shape

³These helmets have been prohibited for new players and players who did not wear them during the 2017 NFL season. Rawlings helmets are not supported by an active manufacturer and are prohibited for all players



2018 HELMET LABORATORY TESTING PERFORMANCE RESULTS

THE NFL, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NFLPA, THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE APPOINTED BIOMECHANICAL EXPERTS, COORDINATED EXTENSIVE LABORATORY RESEARCH TO EVALUATE WHICH HELMETS BEST REDUCE HEAD IMPACT SEVERITY. THE RESULTS OF THOSE TESTS, WHICH ARE SUPPORTED BY ON-FIELD PERFORMANCE, ARE SET FORTH ON THIS POSTER.

The helmet models are listed in order of their performance in the laboratory testing, with a shorter bar representing better performance. The rankings are based exclusively on the ability of the helmet to reduce head impact severity measures in laboratory testing. Issues with helmet fit, retention, and long-term durability are not addressed in these rankings. The Top-Performing Group consists of helmets whose performance was not statistically different from the two top-ranked helmets. The information presented here is based solely upon the results of this research and the expert opinions of the scientists involved.

The laboratory test conditions were intended to represent potentially concussive head impacts in the NFL. The results of this study should not be extrapolated to collegiate, high school, or youth football.