

**THE RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**RYE, NEW YORK**

**5280-R**

**INTERSCHOLASTIC FOOTBALL REGULATION**

The Board of Education (“Board”) takes its obligation to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all students very seriously. To this end, the District has established certain rules and regulations for students who participate in co-curricular, interscholastic athletic activities, specifically with respect to the protective headgear, i.e. helmets, required for participation in interscholastic football. Parents and students are reminded that participation in this activity is a privilege granted to those students who comply with and maintain necessary eligibility criteria, as provided in Policy 5280 and Policy 5280.1. In addition, parents and students must be aware that while no helmet can guarantee the prevention of serious injury to the head or neck, this Regulation is adopted as a means to reduce the potential of injury to students who elect to participate in interscholastic football. In order for students to maintain eligibility for participation in interscholastic football, the following requirements for helmets must be strictly complied with:

- All football helmets used by participants, including those purchased privately by students and/or parents, must bear the “Meets National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (“NOCSAE”) standards” seal and include the “NOCSAE” logo, on the outside rear portion of the helmet.
- All football helmets, including those helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents, shall be turned over to the District each year, at a time specified by the Coach and/or Athletic Director, for reconditioning and recertification by a NOCSAE licensed agency.
- All football helmets, including those helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents, shall be properly fitted to each student by the Coaches.
- All football helmets, including those helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents, shall be inspected by the District before use, for items including, but not limited to, damage to the helmet shell or liner, holes, loose hardware and/or loose face masks. If a helmet shows any of the above signs, including those helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents, the District reserves the right to prohibit its use.
- Participants shall not modify, change or alter in any way, any football helmet and/or face mask, including those helmets and/or face masks privately purchased by students and/or parents, except as otherwise approved by the District.
- Participants shall not remove any warranty labels, warning labels, logos or stickers from any football helmets, including those helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents. This includes, but is not limited to, the “NOCSAE” logo and/or any stickers warning the risk of injury.
- Participants shall use football helmets only for their proper purpose, i.e. no head butting, ramming or spearing of other players.
- Participants intending to privately purchase a football helmet for use in interscholastic football must consult with and obtain approval from the athletic director **prior** to their purchase. In addition, such participants shall be required to read and sign a District “Helmet Waiver Form.”

The following maintenance procedures are highly recommended in order to minimize the risk of injury to participants:

- Users of District supplied helmets should only employ factory authorized paints, cleaners, waxes, adhesives, guards and/or attachments, as determined by the District. Users of helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents are strongly encouraged to refer to the specific instructions for care/maintenance instructions for that particular helmet.
- Users should regularly clean and sanitize all football equipment to avoid the transmission of pathogens, including, but not limited to, bacteria, viruses, mold and/or staphylococcus.
- Users of helmets privately purchased by students and/or parents should be familiar with the helmet warranty associated with the brand of helmet purchased. Any helmet determined by the District to have a void warranty due to the user's failure to comply with the applicable conditions for warranty is prohibited by the District.

In an effort to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all participants, the District reserves the right to prohibit a student from using a privately purchased football helmet. Should this occur, the District shall provide a District-owned football helmet, at no cost to the student.

*Reference: Board Policy 5280 (Interscholastic Athletics) and Board Policy 5280.1 (Physical Education Opt-Out); Board Policy 5275 (Eligibility for Middle School/High School Extra-Curricular Activities)*

Adoption Date: February 8, 2011

Effective Date: July 1, 2011