



Clarification of The New NFHS Arm Covering Standard for High School Football

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Football Rules Committee, in collaboration with the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA), has announced a new arm covering standard for high school football game play.

This standard will take effect during the 2027 football season. Arm coverings may meet the standard prior to the 2027 football season, but they are not required to.

Key Dates and Requirements:

- **Testing Submission:** Brands can submit their products to SFIA/Exponent for testing starting August 1, 2025.
- **Certification Process:** Companies wishing to participate in the certification program must sign an SFIA Licensing Agreement and meet specifications verified through third-party testing conducted by Exponent testing laboratory.
- **Requesting Documentation:** Interested parties can obtain the license agreement and standard specifications by contacting Gregg Hartley with SFIA. License agreements must be signed and returned to SFIA before testing can begin.
- **Arm Coverings Without Silicone or Grip-Enhancing** components are exempt from the certification process, however, Exponent offers visual testing at a significantly reduced cost for brands seeking confirmation that their arm coverings are legal for game play.

Similar to the existing standard for football gloves, the new arm covering standard applies to products with silicone or other grip-enhancing components. Brands producing grip-enhanced arm coverings must meet the certification requirements to ensure compliance with the standard. Certification will be by Exponent, Inc, an independent, third-party test facility, who also certifies football gloves to the SFIA standard. Coverings are defined as any material that covers the arm from the wrist to the shoulder.

The NFHS Football Rules Committee announced the requirement for this new standard in February 2025. It is important to note that this is a fairness standard, not a safety standard, aimed at maintaining fair competition in high school football.

For more information, or to request license agreements and standard specifications, please contact Greg Hartley (SFIA) at greggconsulting@icloud.com