

LexiShield's

**One and ONLY**

FAQ:

*Are LexiShields legal to use in official competition?*

The answer to this question is more of a discussion than 'yes' or 'no'.

**LexiShields are fully legal for practice and scrimmage play.**

However:

- US Lacrosse has, to date, designated LexiShields as **unacceptable** helmet add-ons, until or unless NOCSAE develops definitions and standards for helmet add-ons. Currently, **mandated throat guards, chin straps, and clear visors** are all permitted helmet add-ons. **NONE** have NOCSAE standards. **NONE require testing.**
- US Lacrosse has told us that a helmet shield is fundamentally different from a throat guard, chin strap or visor as far as add-ons are concerned. Aside from comparing LexiShields to Fauxhauks and Go Pros, they have not addressed the issue further.
- NOCSAE suggested that since the helmet companies do their own certification testing, **a helmet shield would be fully legal if a helmet company tested the shield with one of their helmets and marketed the two together as a 'lacrosse goalie helmet model'**. (What a great idea!)
- When we approached Cascade (who has 80%+ of the lacrosse helmet market), they accepted an email packet, and talked to us by phone for a maximum of 10 minutes. Within days, we received a letter from their legal department stating, *"Albeit interesting, unfortunately it does not fit into our current or future development plans."* Two other helmet manufacturers did not respond to our requests for a meeting.
- Our response has been to continue selling shields for practice and scrimmage use, with the idea of seeding the experience of playing with a shield with as many goalies as we can. Our theory is that younger players, who don't play 'official' games until high school, will balk at the idea of taking off their shields when they feel the **unnecessary** consequences of getting hit by balls coming at them at greater speeds.

- In LexiShield's view, it is the goalies with their parents and coaches who have the power to insist that US Lacrosse permit shields and/or demand that there be a shielded goalie helmet option on the market.
- **We will continue to sell LexiShields to save as many skulls as possible, for as long as we can manage.**
- Meanwhile, back in the Crease, we have only a handful of reports of goalies being asked to remove a shield to play official games. It seems either refs assume the shield is part of the helmet, or are simply unwilling to take the risk of mandating removal when the goalie reports why he or she is wearing a helmet shield.

**Conclusion:** *What YOU can do to help make LexiShields **fully** legal for all games:*

- **Arrive at every game ready to play with a shield** and remove it only if the ref insists that it must be removed. A spare helmet may make this easier.
- **Contact Mike Oliver** at NOCSAE ([mike.oliver@nocsae.org](mailto:mike.oliver@nocsae.org)) and request they develop standards for lacrosse goalie helmet shields.
- **Contact Ann Kitt Carpenetti** at US Lacrosse ([acarpenetti@uslacrosse.org](mailto:acarpenetti@uslacrosse.org)) and request they allow use of goalie helmet shields under the same policy umbrella they use for throat guards, chin straps, and clear visors.
- **Ask your doctor** to give you a letter recommending use of a helmet shield. Carry it with you to all games to share with the ref if questioned.
- If you get a concussion or even a painful hit without a shield, report the incident to US Lacrosse and NOCSAE with a copy of your medical letter and ask for permission to use a LexiShield as a **permitted medical device**.

Please contact us with questions, suggestions, or further discussion,

on **Facebook** or email us at [LexiShieldSafe@gmail.com](mailto:LexiShieldSafe@gmail.com)

See the full LexiShield testing report from H. P. White Labs on this website.