

**DATE: August 22, 2013**

**SUBJECT: Throwback Uniform Helmets**

Our Head, Neck, and Spine Committee, chaired by Drs. Hunt Batjer and Richard Ellenbogen, and the Player Safety Advisory Panel, chaired by John Madden and Ronnie Lott, have recommended that players no longer wear different helmets as part of a “Throwback” or "Third" uniform.

Our office supports this change and has reviewed it with the chairman of our Health and Safety ownership committee, Dr. John York, who concurs with this recommendation.

We have communicated the change to those teams that are planning to wear throwback uniforms for at least one game this season. Teams may continue to wear throwback uniforms under league guidelines, but players must wear their regular helmets. The outside of the helmet can be modified by removing or replacing decals, as long as it does not affect the integrity of the helmet.

The committees believe that a cautious approach to the changing of helmets is an important best practice for player safety.

This change is consistent with numerous changes we have made in recent years regarding uniforms and equipment. If you have any questions, please call either of us.

cc: Club Equipment Managers