



HEADGEAR IN WOMEN'S LACROSSE

TIMELINE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SPORT-SPECIFIC STANDARD

- In 2010, USA Lacrosse approached NOCSAE (National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment) to develop a headgear standard specific to women's lacrosse and the injury mechanisms specific to the sport.
- In 2011, USA Lacrosse continued to convene researchers, scientists, medical experts, and equipment manufacturers in a collaborative effort to develop a scientifically based performance standard for women's headgear products.
- In 2012, USA Lacrosse became a member of an ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) Task Group on women's lacrosse headgear, after its earlier request to NOCSAE to help develop a women's lacrosse-specific standard was denied.
- In 2012, Ann Carpenetti, vice president of lacrosse operations at USA Lacrosse, accepted the role as co-chair of the ASTM's Committee F08.53 – the women's lacrosse headgear task group. Several other USA Lacrosse staff members also provided their expertise as committee members.
- In June 2014, the Florida High School Athletic Association mandated headgear for scholastic play; there was no sport specific product or standard available at this time.
- In May 2015, at its bi-annual meeting, ASTM approved the first-ever performance standard for women's lacrosse headgear (F3137), developed to help reduce impact forces associated with stick and ball contact in women's lacrosse.
- In June 2015, the USA Lacrosse rules committee voted on and approved the introduction of the ASTM standard and the elimination of the word "soft" in the headgear descriptor. The new rule stated that, effective January 1, 2017, all headgear must meet the new ASTM standard. This rule was announced the fall of 2015 and included in the 2016 USA Lacrosse rulebook.
- Headgear products are introduced to the marketplace in the fall of 2016; Cascade has a model with integrated eyewear, and Hummingbird has a headgear only option.
- January 1, 2017, the USA Lacrosse requirement that all headgear used must meet the ASTM standard, (F3137), at the Youth and High School level, in collaboration with the NFHS, goes into effect.
- In 2020, the use of women's headgear remains optional as USA Lacrosse continues to fund independent research to study and determine the efficacy of headgear products before deciding whether or not to mandate their use by all players.
- In 2021, supported by funding from both USA Lacrosse and NOCSAE, a study led by Dr. Daniel Herman of the University of Florida is expected to provide the most definitive analysis to date on lacrosse specific women's headgear.