

We have previously required soft shell helmets to be work at our events. As of June 1, 2021, 7v7 Elite will require the use of Virginia Tech certified helmets with a rating at 4 star or 5 star.

There are currently 6 models of soft shell helmets that have received a 5 star rating that are eligible for 7v7 Elite. The varsity football helmets (includes the NFL) have 24 models to choose from with 5 Star ratings. These are the same athletes, going the same speed, impacting each other during competition.

So why do we recommend Gamebreaker Soft Shell Helmets:

VIRGINIA TECH HELMET LABORATORY TESTING

Steve Rowson of Virginia Tech Helmet lab says, “There’s a risk of injury in any sport, but protective equipment can reduce that risk significantly. Our job is to get independent, evidence-based information out there to players, coaches, and parents, so that they can choose the equipment that’s most effective...”

The most common head injuries in 7v7 football are when two opposing player’s heads collide when both are going for the ball or when players are attempting to break up a pass or make a tag.

Gamebreaker headgear is designed to reduce the impact force from contact that may be generated by contact such as head to head, -knee, or -shoulder.

Virginia Tech Helmet Lab created a custom impactor used to test headgear under head-to-head conditions which are known to be associated with the highest risk of concussions in soccer*. The test consisted of two NOCSAE head and neck configurations representing the average male. Headgear was positioned on the heads and impacts were made to the side and back of the head at three different velocities. Each test was performed twice on each sample headgear. The same test was conducted on bare heads (without headgear) to be used as the control scenario. Results of the headgear were compared to the results of the bare head impacts which determined the final STAR rating.

* Virginia Tech Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics laboratory performs testing for tackle football helmets which the NFL, NCAA and NFHS use based on NOCSAE standard requirements.

7v7 ELITE HELMET REQUIREMENTS

1. Must have at least a 4-star rating from Virginia Tech Lab or equivalent**
2. Must have at least 75% head coverage (Not including face)
3. Must cover the crown of the head (Soft shell ring style helmets best used in soccer are not eligible for use.
3. Must have NO metal or hard-plastic component parts (Strap buttons, etc..)

4. Must have no sharp or hard edges, and/or anything that could cause harm to the player wearing headgear or any other player.
5. Must have a retention system (chin strap, etc)

-Lee Latner
Founder of 7v7 Elite, LLC and 7v7Elite.com

