MEMORANDUM

To: Head Football Coaches, Student-Athletes, and Parents/Guardians

From: District Athletic Office

Date: July 30, 2026

Subject: Personally Purchased Football Helmets

The safety of our student-athletes is our highest priority. To ensure compliance with district standards, NFHS rules, and manufacturer safety requirements, any student-athlete who chooses to purchase a personal football helmet must adhere to the following guidelines:

Approved Manufacturer: All personally purchased football helmets must be manufactured by Riddell.

Authorized Purchase: Helmets must be purchased through the district's authorized Riddell representative. Helmets purchased through retail stores, online marketplaces, or unauthorized vendors will not be approved for use.

Required Reconditioning: Personally owned helmets are subject to the same annual inspection, reconditioning, recertification, and maintenance process as all district-issued football helmets.

NFHS Compliance: All helmets must meet current NFHS, manufacturers, and National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) requirements before they may be used in practices or contests.

Inspection and Approval: The District Athletic Department reserves the right to inspect any personally owned helmet and determine whether it meets all required safety standards. Any helmet that does not comply with district requirements or fails inspection will not be approved for use.

Failure to Meet Standards: Any personally owned helmet that fails the annual reconditioning or recertification process, does not meet NFHS or NOCSAE standards, or is deemed unsafe by the reconditioning agency or District Athletic Department will not be permitted for use in any practice or athletic contest until it has been brought into full compliance or replaced.

These procedures are in place to ensure that every student-athlete has equipment that meets the highest safety standards and provides the greatest level of protection. We appreciate your cooperation and commitment to maintaining a safe athletic environment.

If you have any questions regarding the purchase or approval of a personal football helmet, please contact the District Athletic Office before making your purchase.

Kevin Grooms, CMAA

District Athletic Director

Bibb County School District