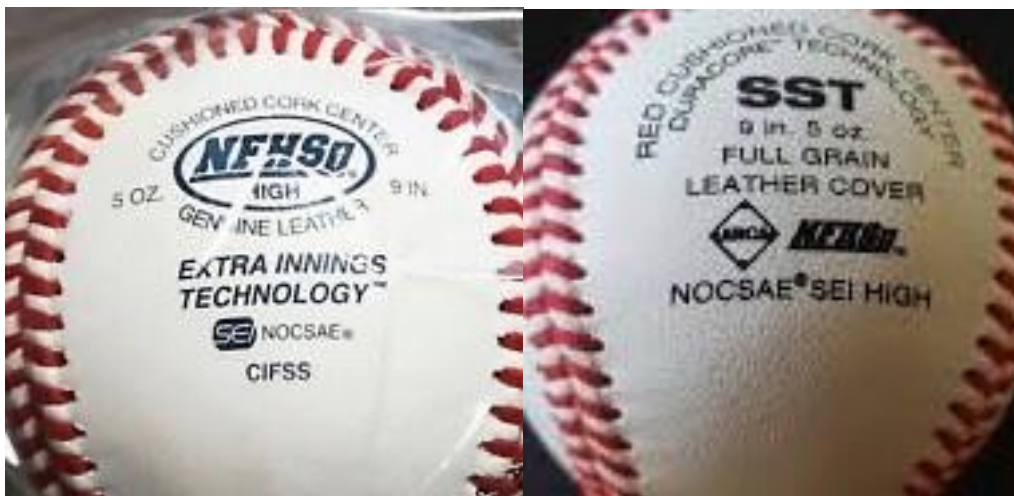




NOCSAE SAFETY STANDARDS FOR BASEBALLS AND CATCHER CHEST PROTECTORS

For the past three years, the NFHS has phased-in the requirement for the use of NOCSAE-certified baseballs. This has been included in correspondence with coaches and included in MHSAA Baseball Rules Meetings over the past few seasons. This requirement was scheduled to go into effect last season, but was postponed until this year. Beginning this year (2020 season), all MHSAA contests **must** only utilize baseballs with the NOCSAE stamp on them. This stamp may be displayed in a variety of ways. Some are pictured below. Because this is a safety-related mandate, umpires have been instructed not to play games when the baseballs are not properly marked with a NOCSAE stamp.



Beginning in the 2020 season, catchers in baseball are required to wear NOCSAE-certified chest protectors. Alternatively, catchers may wear a NOCSAE-certified chest plate underneath their chest protector. Umpires will not be checking for this – except to verify with the head coach that all of the players are legally and properly equipped.