

**PERMISSION TO USE PERSONAL FOOTBALL HELMET**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ (“Student”) School: \_\_\_\_\_ (“School”)

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

This Permission to Use Personal Football Helmet Form (“Permission Form”) has been signed only after understanding and considering the following. By signing this form, the student and the parents/guardians of Student (“Parents”), certify that we have thoroughly read, understand, and accept the following terms and conditions, which will govern the Student’s use of a personal football helmet (“Personal Helmet”) during this calendar year (including all practices, scrimmages, and games) (“Current Football Season”).

1. The Wake County Public School System (“WCPSS”) traditionally provides varsity and junior varsity football players at each respective WCPSS high school a football helmet (“School Helmet”) certified by the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (“NOCSAE”) for each football season. Each School Helmet is inspected, reconditioned, and recertified on an annual basis.

2. We, the Student and Parents, have elected to forego use of the School Helmet and to provide a Personal Helmet for Student’s use during the Current Football Season. Parents and/or Student are responsible for ensuring that the Personal Helmet has been certified according to NOCSAE standards for the Current Football Season. Student shall not be permitted to use a Personal Helmet for the Current Football Season unless this Permission Form is signed by Parents and the Personal Helmet has been certified for the Current Football Season in accordance with all NOCSAE standards. If this is the first year the student is using the Personal Helmet, the Personal Helmet must have been purchased new and never have been used before in any practice, scrimmage, or game.

3. **Personal Helmet Requirements.** Any Personal Helmet provided by Parents and used by Student during the Current Football Season must meet all NOCSAE certification standards. The Personal Helmet must have permanent seal affixed to the exterior of its shell a clearly legible statement from its manufacturer which can easily be read without removal of any decal tape, other temporary material or permanent part, containing the following information: “No helmet can prevent all head or any neck injuries a player might receive while participating in football. Do not use this helmet to butt, ram or spear an opposing player. This is in violation of the football rules and such use can result in severe head or neck injuries, paralysis or death to you and possible injury to your opponent.” In addition, a replica of the “MEETS NOCSAE STANDARD” seal must appear legibly on the exterior of the Personal Helmet shell.

4. **Personal Helmet Use and Care.** The Personal Helmet may only be used according to the terms and conditions described in this document. The Student’s use of the Personal Helmet will be governed at all times, both on and off campus, by all applicable WCPSS policies, as well as any additional rules, regulations, and restrictions that may be imposed by WCPSS (including those of the School’s head football coach). Unless being removed for practices, scrimmages, games, inspection, reconditioning, recertification, or repair, Student’s Personal Helmet must remain on School property with School Helmets. Student’s Personal Helmet will undergo daily and weekly inspections, in accordance with the School’s regular procedures for School Helmets. The Personal Helmet shall be fitted to Student according to the School’s regular procedures for School Helmets. Student shall not share the Personal Helmet with any other person or permit any other person to use the Personal Helmet. If Personal Helmet is malfunctioning or damaged, Student shall immediately cease use of Personal Helmet and report such malfunctioning or damage to School’s head football coach. Student shall at all times follow the instructions of the head coach, assistant head coach(es), volunteer coach(es), or any other School personnel with regard to the Personal Helmet. As with School Helmets, if at any point any WCPSS employee (including the School’s head football coach) determines the Personal Helmet unfit for use or otherwise improperly cared for, he/she shall have the authority to require the Student to use a School Helmet and Student shall not use the Personal Helmet. If instructed to do so for any reason by any WCPSS employee (including the School’s head football coach), the Student or Parent will immediately surrender the Personal Helmet to that employee. Any violation of the terms or conditions set forth may result in possession or use of the Personal Helmet being suspended or terminated, with or without prior notice, at the sole discretion of WCPSS. In case of such suspension or termination, Student shall be provided a School Helmet for use.

5. **Annual Recertification.** Student shall not be permitted to use the Personal Helmet if it has not been certified for the Current Football Season (irrespective of whether it was worn during the previous calendar year). For each football season, Parents must obtain an inspection, reconditioning, and recertification of the Personal Helmet according to the most current National Athletic Equipment Reconditioner’s Association (“NAERA”) and NOCSAE guidelines. All recertified helmets must be stamped, imprinted, or sealed with the NOCSAE recertification logo or trademark on the interior and exterior, indicating that the helmet has been reconditioned and recertified for the Current Football Season.

All School Helmets are sent for inspection, reconditioning, and recertification by School on an annual basis. If Parent so elects, the Personal Helmet may be sent for inspection, reconditioning, and recertification with the School Helmets, but Parent shall remain responsible for reimbursing School for the cost of such inspection, reconditioning, and recertification.

