

Overview of 2015 Helmet Rules

Tighter helmet safety rules were passed in the 2015 Version of the *Racing Handbook* by the Executive Committee to provide minimum protections to help reduce potential risk of serious head and neck injuries associated with Cocktail Class Racing activities. These include:

- Helmets need to meet DOT Std 218 or Snell helmet standards (Rule A.2.1.1.1), or CE EN 1385 Standard for Water Sports (Rule A.2.1.1.2) - which is the standard for kayak and wakeboard helmets. Bicycle and skateboard helmets are no longer permitted.
- Helmets are required to have a full-cut open-face profile (Rule A.2.1.1.4). The full-cut requirement applies equally to DOT Std 218 and Snell helmets, as well as to CE EN 1385 helmets.
- A side-cut profile kayak helmet should not be confused as a substitute for a full-cut helmet. A side-cut profile exposes more of the driver's head, ear and neck to serious injury. Even with the optional soft ear pads that are available for some side-cut helmets, there is still increased exposure to head and neck injury, and therefore that helmet profile is not permitted.
- Starting January 2016, orange will be the only helmet safety color permitted. Yellow is still permitted in 2015. Some members having difficulty finding helmet models available in orange are successfully painting their helmets to comply with the color requirement.

Types of full-cut open-face helmets that comply with 2015 safety rules:



Permitted: US DOT Std 218 Helmet - Full-Cut Open-Face (above)

Z1R Jimmy Retro Price range \$75

<http://z1r-apparel.com/products/?productGroupId=2344>

It is possible that the orange/white color scheme (shown) has limited availability and sizes this year and may be discontinued.



Permitted: US DOT Std 218 Helmet - Full-Cut Open-Face (above)

Speed and Strength SS600 Price range \$99

http://www.ssgear.com/usa_english/speed-metal-ss600-helmet.html

Available in Orange Metallic Flake (shown in yellow above).



Permitted: NRS Chaos Helmet - Full-Cut (above)

CE EN 1385 Standard for Water Sports* Price range \$49

<http://www.nrs.com/product/2057/nrs-chaos-helmet-full-cut>

*Helmets meeting the CE EN 1385 Standard for Water Sports are permitted by the 2015 Rules - but not recommended.



Permitted: Pro Tec Wakeboard Helmet - Full-Cut (above)

CE EN 1385 Standard for Water Sports* Price range \$49

http://www.evo.com/wake-helmets/pro-tec-the-full-cut-wakeboard-helmet.aspx#image=82743/367039/pro-tec-the-full-cut-wakeboard-helmet-gloss-red.jpg&select=true&utm_medium=shoppingengine&utm_source=googlebase&utm_campaign=EB-82743-1006

*Helmets meeting the CE EN 1385 Standard for Water Sports are permitted by the 2015 Rules - but not recommended.

NOT PERMITTED: All side-cut profile kayak helmets (below):



NRS Chaos Helmet - Side-Cut (above and below)
With or without removable soft ear pads (shown below)



NRS Havoc Livery - Side-Cut (above)



WRSI Current - Side-Cut (above)