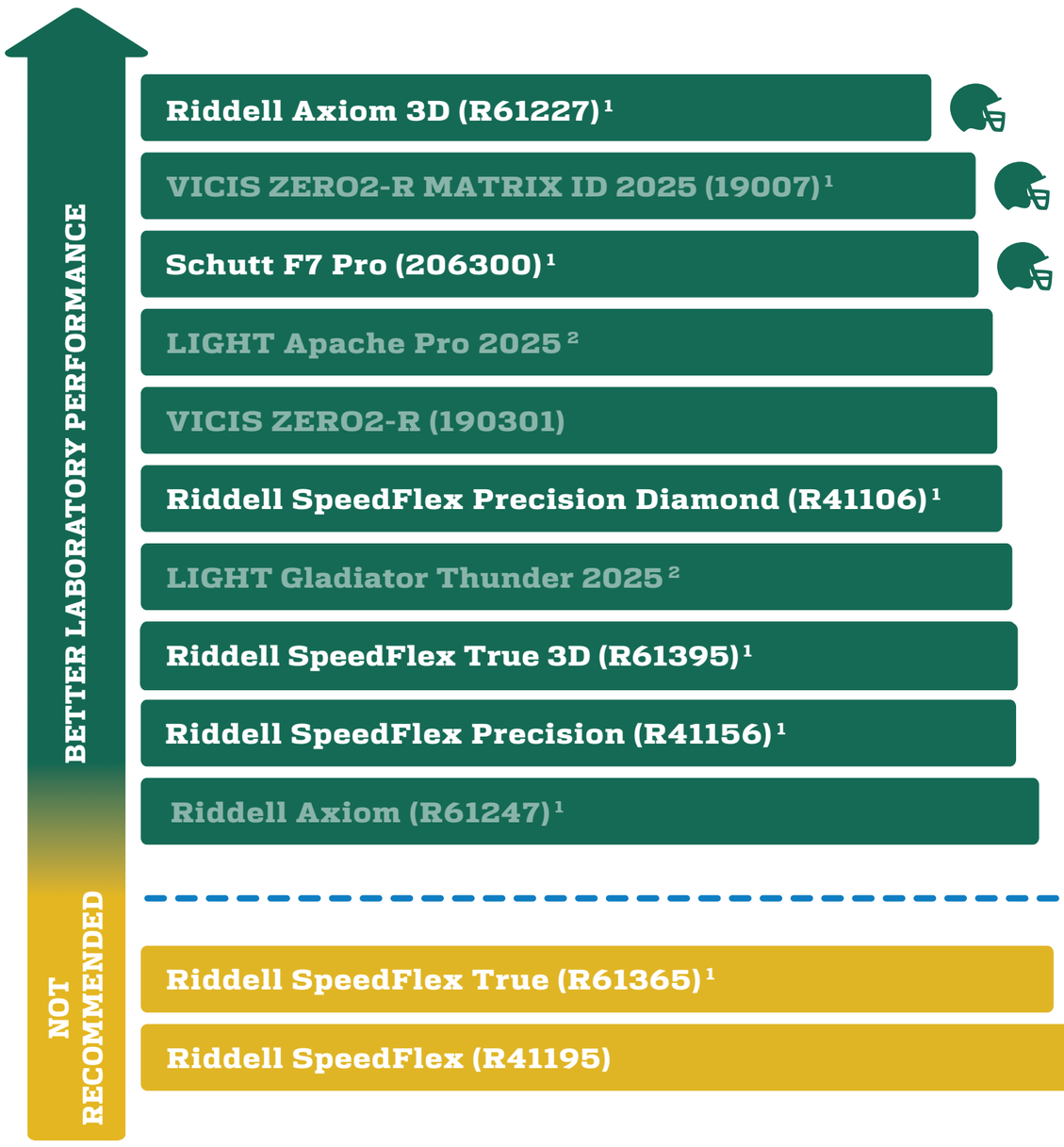
2026 HELMET LABORATORY TESTING PERFORMANCE RESULTS



NEWLY PROHIBITED[3]

Schutt Vengeance DCT
Xenith Shadow

[1]Actual performance and ranking may vary since these helmets are customized for each player's head shape.

[2]Helmets were submitted for testing in size medium. While these helmets meet the current fit pressure requirements for the test protocol, more than 95% of LIGHT helmets worn by NFL players were size large or x-large.

[3]These helmets join a list of previously-prohibited models and are prohibited for all players.

Note: Models worn by less than 1% of NFL players are greyed-out.

These models are part of a list of 10 models for which any player in a Guardian Cap-required position may choose to wear one of these helmets without a Guardian Cap in practices. Players should consult the full list of these models.

THE NFL AND NFLPA, THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE APPOINTED BIOMECHANICAL EXPERTS AND THE JOINT ENGINEERING AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY COMMITTEE, ANNUALLY COORDINATE EXTENSIVE LABORATORY RESEARCH TO EVALUATE WHICH HELMETS BEST REDUCE HEAD IMPACT MAGNITUDE. THE RESULTS OF THOSE TESTS, WHICH ARE GENERALLY SUPPORTED BY ON-FIELD PERFORMANCE, ARE SET FORTH ON THIS POSTER.

The helmet models are listed in order of their performance, with a shorter bar representing better performance. The rankings are based exclusively on the ability of the helmet to reduce head impact magnitude measures in laboratory testing. Performance variation related to helmet fit, retention, temperature-dependence, and long-term durability are not addressed in these rankings.

All helmets in green are recommended for use by NFL players. These Top-Performing helmets performed similarly to top-ranked helmets based on a statistical grouping analysis. Helmets with poorer laboratory performance were placed in the Not Recommended (yellow) or Prohibited (red) groups. Players using helmets from the yellow group should consider offerings in the green group. Red helmets are prohibited for all players.

Players are encouraged to discuss their helmet options with their clubs' equipment and athletic training staffs, including other model offerings such as position-specific helmets and models that may be worn without a Guardian Cap NXT 1.8 or NXT 2.0 in practices.

The laboratory test conditions were intended to represent potentially concussive head impacts in the NFL. The results of this study should not be extrapolated to collegiate, high school, or youth football.

POSITION-SPECIFIC HELMET TESTING

Top-performing helmets were evaluated using position-specific test methodologies for quarterbacks, and offensive and defensive linemen. Position-specific helmet rankings are available at this link.

DL OL QB

NO HELMET SYSTEM CAN COMPLETELY PROTECT AGAINST SERIOUS BRAIN AND/OR NECK INJURIES A PLAYER MIGHT SUSTAIN WHILE PARTICIPATING IN FOOTBALL.

2026 POSITION-SPECIFIC HELMET TESTING
RESULTS FOR QUARTERBACKS

[1] *Actual performance and ranking may vary since these helmets are customized for each player's head shape.*

[2] *Helmets were submitted for testing in size medium. While these helmets meet the current fit pressure requirements for the test protocol, more than 95% of LIGHT helmets worn by NFL players were size large or x-large.*

Note: Models worn by less than 1% of Quarterbacks are greyed-out.

POSITION-SPECIFIC HELMET TESTING

Top-performing helmets were evaluated using position-specific test methodologies for quarterbacks, and offensive and defensive linemen. Position-specific helmet rankings are available at this link.

DL OL QB

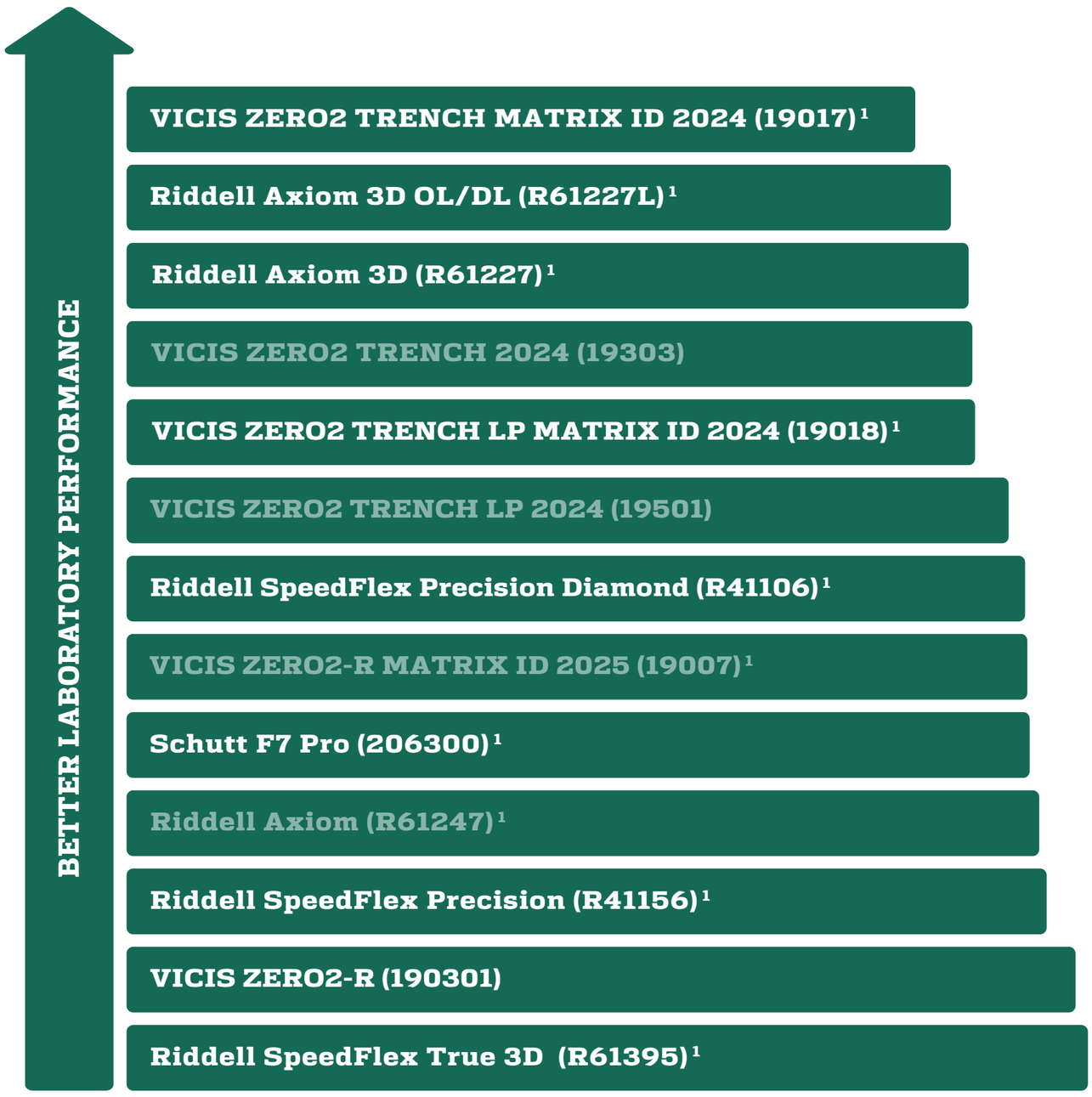
THE NFL AND NFLPA, THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE APPOINTED BIOMECHANICAL EXPERTS AND THE JOINT ENGINEERING AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY COMMITTEE, ANNUALLY COORDINATE EXTENSIVE LABORATORY RESEARCH TO EVALUATE WHICH HELMETS BEST REDUCE HEAD IMPACT MAGNITUDE.

This year, top-performing (green) helmets were evaluated using position-specific test methodologies. This poster outlines the results for currently manufactured all-purpose helmet models and models designed specifically for Quarterbacks. The helmet models are listed in order of their performance, with a shorter bar representing better performance. The rankings are based exclusively on the ability of the helmet to reduce head impact magnitude measures in laboratory testing. Performance variation related to helmet fit, retention, temperature-dependence, and long-term durability are not addressed in these rankings.

All helmets on this poster tested in the top-performing (green) group in the all-purpose helmet test used to rank helmets on the main poster. This poster ranks those helmets according to how they performed under additional laboratory impact conditions that are representative of high-magnitude impacts Quarterbacks are likely to experience on-field. These position-specific results are meant to supplement the information provided on the main poster to help players distinguish between top-performing helmets that may offer impact magnitude reduction specifically for the types of impacts they are likely to sustain while playing a particular position.

The laboratory test conditions were intended to represent potentially concussive head impacts in the NFL for Quarterbacks. The results of this study should not be extrapolated to collegiate, high school, or youth football.

2026 POSITION-SPECIFIC HELMET TESTING
RESULTS FOR OFFENSIVE LINEMEN



[1] *Actual performance and ranking may vary since these helmets are customized for each player's head shape.*

Note: Models worn by less than 1% of Offensive Linemen are greyed-out.

POSITION-SPECIFIC HELMET TESTING

Top-performing helmets were evaluated using position-specific test methodologies for quarterbacks, and offensive and defensive linemen. Position-specific helmet rankings are available at this link.

DL OL QB

THE NFL AND NFLPA, THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE APPOINTED BIOMECHANICAL EXPERTS AND THE JOINT ENGINEERING AND EQUIPMENT SAFETY COMMITTEE, ANNUALLY COORDINATE EXTENSIVE LABORATORY RESEARCH TO EVALUATE WHICH HELMETS BEST REDUCE HEAD IMPACT MAGNITUDE.

This year, top-performing (green) helmets were evaluated using position-specific test methodologies. This poster outlines the results for currently manufactured all-purpose helmet models and models designed specifically for Offensive Linemen. The helmet models are listed in order of their performance, with a shorter bar representing better performance. The rankings are based exclusively on the ability of the helmet to reduce head impact magnitude measures in laboratory testing. Performance variation related to helmet fit, retention, temperature-dependence, and long-term durability are not addressed in these rankings.

All helmets on this poster tested in the top-performing (green) group in the all-purpose helmet test used to rank helmets on the main poster. This poster ranks those helmets according to how they performed under additional laboratory impact conditions that are representative of high-magnitude impacts Offensive Linemen are likely to experience on-field. These position-specific results are meant to supplement the information provided on the main poster to help players distinguish between top-performing helmets that may offer impact magnitude reduction specifically for the types of impacts they are likely to sustain while playing a particular position.

The laboratory test conditions were intended to represent potentially concussive head impacts in the NFL for Offensive Linemen. The results of this study should not be extrapolated to collegiate, high school, or youth football.

2026 POSITION-SPECIFIC HELMET TESTING
RESULTS FOR DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

[1] *Actual performance and ranking may vary since these helmets are customized for each player's head shape.*

Note: Models worn by less than 1% of Defensive Linemen are greyed-out.

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This year, top-performing (green) helmets were evaluated using position-specific test methodologies. This poster outlines the results for currently manufactured all-purpose helmet models and models designed specifically for Defensive Linemen. The helmet models are listed in order of their performance, with a shorter bar representing better performance. The rankings are based exclusively on the ability of the helmet to reduce head impact magnitude measures in laboratory testing. Performance variation related to helmet fit, retention, temperature-dependence, and long-term durability are not addressed in these rankings.

All helmets on this poster tested in the top-performing (green) group in the all-purpose helmet test used to rank helmets on the main poster. This poster ranks those helmets according to how they performed under additional laboratory impact conditions that are representative of high-magnitude impacts Defensive Linemen are likely to experience on-field. These position-specific results are meant to supplement the information provided on the main poster to help players distinguish between top-performing helmets that may offer impact magnitude reduction specifically for the types of impacts they are likely to sustain while playing a particular position.

The laboratory test conditions were intended to represent potentially concussive head impacts in the NFL for Defensive Linemen. The results of this study should not be extrapolated to collegiate, high school, or youth football.

POSITION-SPECIFIC HELMET TESTING

Top-performing helmets were evaluated using position-specific test methodologies for quarterbacks, and offensive and defensive linemen. Position-specific helmet rankings are available at this link.

OTHER PERMISSIBLE HELMET MODELS

(Alphabetized)

Position-specific and legacy helmet models (discontinued helmets worn by less than 1% of players in the past season) do not appear on the main poster. These helmets are still permissible for use and have been color-coded according to the 2026 poster groupings on the list below. Helmets in green or yellow may be worn by any player for the 2026 NFL season, though the use of green helmets is strongly encouraged.

These models are part of a list of 10 models for which any player in a Guardian Cap-required position may choose to wear one of these helmets without a Guardian Cap in practices.

TOP-PERFORMING

- LIGHT Gladiator ATK
- LIGHT LS Pro
- Riddell Axiom 3D OL/DL #
- Riddell Axiom 3D QB #
- Schutt F7 Pro QB #
- Schutt F7 Pro WR/DB #
- VICIS ZERO2 MATRIX ID QB
- VICIS ZERO2 TRENCH MATRIX ID 2024 #
- VICIS ZERO2 TRENCH LP MATRIX ID 2024 #
- VICIS ZERO2-R MATRIX ID
- VICIS ZERO2-R MATRIX ID TRENCH
- VICIS ZERO2-R TRENCH
- VICIS ZERO2-R TRENCH 2024
- VICIS ZERO2-R TRENCH LP 2024
- Xenith Orbit Pro #

NOT RECOMMENDED

- Riddell SpeedFlex Diamond
- Riddell SpeedFlex Precision QB
- Riddell SpeedFlex Precision OL/DL
- Schutt Air XP Pro VTD II
- Schutt F7 2.0
- Schutt F7 LTD
- Schutt F7N
- Schutt F7 UR1
- Schutt F7 UR1 2.0 2024
- Schutt F7 UR2
- Schutt F7 VTD II
- VICIS ZERO1
- Xenith Shadow XR

ALL PROHIBITED HELMETS

The following prohibited helmet models perform poorly in laboratory testing, have been discontinued by the manufacturer, or were produced by companies no longer manufacturing football helmets. All the helmets listed below are prohibited for use on-field by all NFL players for the 2026 NFL season.

- LIGHT LS1 Composite
- LIGHT LS2
- Rawlings Impulse
- Rawlings Impulse+
- Rawlings Tachyon
- Rawlings Quantum
- Rawlings Quantum+
- Riddell Foundation
- Riddell Revolution
- Riddell Revolution IQ
- Riddell Revolution Speed Classic
- Riddell Speed
- Riddell Speed Classic Icon
- Riddell Speed Icon
- Riddell VSR-4
- Schutt Air Advantage
- Schutt Air XP
- Schutt Air XP Pro
- Schutt Air XP Pro Q10
- Schutt Air XP Pro Q10
- Schutt Air XP Pro Q11
- Schutt Air XP Pro Q11 LTD
- Schutt F7
- Schutt F7 VTD
- Schutt F5
- Schutt Vengeance DCT*
- Schutt Vengeance Pro
- Schutt Vengeance Pro LTD
- Schutt Vengeance VTD II
- Schutt Vengeance Z10
- Schutt Vengeance Z10 LTD
- SG Varsity
- SG 2.0
- Xenith Epic
- Xenith Epic+
- Xenith Shadow*
- Xenith X2E
- Xenith X2E+

*Newly prohibited