



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Certor Sports and AEMA Announce 2026 Gold Level Partnership to Advance Athlete Safety and Equipment Innovation**

**Plainfield, IN | May 20, 2026**

Certor Sports and the Athletic Equipment Managers Association (AEMA) today announced a 2026 Gold Level partnership designed to expand education, elevate the equipment management profession, and strengthen support for those responsible for athlete safety at every level of sport.

The partnership brings together AEMA's leadership in education and certification with Certor Sports' commitment to innovation across its portfolio of protective equipment brands, including Schutt, VICIS, and TUCCI.

VICIS continues to set the standard in football helmet performance, with the ZERO2 currently recognized as the top-rated helmet for quarterbacks, offensive linemen, and defensive linemen in the NFL. Schutt is driving the next generation of protection with its F7 Pro and F7 AiR series, featuring the first of its kind onboard AiR-Lock inflation system designed to deliver a more personalized fit and enhanced performance on the field. TUCCI provides high performance baseball equipment engineered for elite level play.

As part of the agreement, Certor Sports will serve as an AEMA Gold Level Sponsor, with an expanded presence at the AEMA Convention, collaborative educational programming, and year-round engagement focused on advancing best practices in equipment management.

Together, Certor Sports and AEMA will:

- Expand access to education, training, and industry collaboration
- Reinforce standards and certification that protect athletes
- Support the growth and development of equipment managers across all levels of sport

“Having Certor as our Gold Level partner reflects the strength of their commitment to athlete safety and the equipment management community,” said **Ann Kitt-Carpenetti, Executive Director of AEMA**. “Through their portfolio of industry-leading brands, Certor is helping shape the future of protective equipment, and together, we are creating meaningful opportunities to advance education, innovation, and impact across our membership.”

“We are proud to partner with AEMA as a Gold Level Sponsor,” said **Jeremy Erspamer, President & CEO, Certor Sports**. “Equipment managers are essential to athlete safety, and this partnership allows us to directly support their work through continued innovation. From the groundbreaking Schutt F7 Pro and F7 AiR helmets, which set a new standard in fit, adjustability, and performance, to the position-specific leadership of the VICIS ZERO2 lineup and our latest youth technologies, we remain committed to delivering protective solutions that safeguard athletes and elevate performance at every level of the game.”

### **About AEMA**

The Athletic Equipment Managers Association (AEMA) is the national professional membership association for athletic equipment managers across high school, collegiate, and professional sports. AEMA is dedicated to advancing the profession through **education, certification, advocacy, and community engagement**, while promoting the highest standards of safety and performance in athletic equipment management.

### **About Certor Sports**

Certor Sports specializes in manufacturing products under the VICIS, Schutt, and TUCCI brands. As a premier provider of athletic protective gear and high-performance apparel, Certor Sports is committed to safeguarding athletes with cutting-edge solutions. With a strong emphasis on protection and performance, Certor Sports has established itself as a trusted leader in athletic protection. To learn more about Certor Sports, visit [certorsports.com](https://certorsports.com).