

## Students

### Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement a program to manage concussions and head injuries suffered by student athletes. The program shall:

1. Without limitation, prepare for the full implementation of the Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act, that provides, without limitation, each of the following:
  - a) The Superintendent will appoint members of a Concussion Oversight Team for the District.
  - b) The Concussion Oversight Team shall establish each of the following based on peer-reviewed scientific evidence consistent with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
    - i. A return-to-play protocol governing a student's return to interscholastic athletics practice or competition following a force of impact believed to have caused a concussion.  
  
The Superintendent or designee shall supervise persons responsible for compliance with the return-to-play protocol.
    - ii. A return-to-learn protocol governing a student's return to the classroom following a force of impact believed to have caused a concussion. The Superintendent or designee shall supervise the person responsible for compliance with the return-to-learn protocol.
  - c) Each student and the student's parent/guardian shall be required to sign a concussion information receipt form each school year before participating in an interscholastic athletic activity.
  - d) A student shall be removed from an interscholastic athletic practice or competition immediately if any of the following individuals believes that the student sustained a concussion during the practice and/or competition:
    - i. a coach,
    - ii. a physician,
    - iii. a game official,
    - iv. an athletic trainer,
    - v. the student's parent/guardian,
    - vi. the student, or
    - vii. any other person deemed appropriate under the return-to-play protocol.
  - e) A student who was removed from interscholastic athletic practice or competition shall be allowed to return only after all statutory prerequisites are completed, including without limitation, the return-to-play and return-to-learn protocols developed by the Concussion Oversight Team. **An athletic team coach or assistant coach may not authorize a student's return-to-play or return-to-learn.**

- f) The following individuals must complete concussion training as specified in the Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act:
- i. All coaches or assistant coaches (whether volunteer or a district employee) of interscholastic athletic activities;
  - ii. Nurses, licensed healthcare professionals, or non-licensed healthcare professionals, if any serve on the Concussion Oversight Team;
  - iii. Athletic trainers, if any serve on the Concussion Oversight Team;
  - iv. Game officials of interscholastic athletic activities, if any serve on the Concussion Oversight Team;
  - v. Physicians, if any serve on the Concussion Oversight Team.
- g) An emergency action plan shall be in place for interscholastic athletic activities to address serious injuries or acute medical conditions if a student's condition deteriorates rapidly.
- 2) Comply with the concussion protocols, policies, and by-laws of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA), including its *Protocol for Implementation of NFHS Sports Playing Rules* and its *Return to Play Policy*. These specifically require that:
- a) A student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion in a practice or game shall be removed from participation or competition at that time.
  - b) A student athlete who has been removed from an interscholastic contest for a possible concussion or head injury may not return to that contest unless cleared to do so by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer.
  - c) If not cleared to return to that contest, a student athlete may not return to play or practice until the student athlete has provided his or her school with written clearance from a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois.
- 3) Inform student athletes and their parents/guardians about this policy in the Agreement to Participate or other written instrument that a student athlete and his or her parent/guardian must sign before the student is allowed to participate in a practice or interscholastic competition.
- 4) Provide coaches and student athletes and their parents/guardians with educational materials from the Illinois High School Association regarding the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries, including the risks inherent in continuing to play after a concussion or head injury.
- 5) Include a requirement for staff members to notify the parent/guardian of a student who exhibits symptoms consistent with that of a concussion.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.53, 105 ILCS 5.22-80, 105 ILCS 25/1.15.

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety) 7:300 (Extracurricular Athletics)

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