

CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT

The Board of Education seeks to provide a healthy and safe environment for all students participating in physical education classes, interscholastic sports, and intramural sports.

A mild traumatic brain injury (“concussion”) can cause harmful, long-term effects to brain functions. The potential for a concussion is greatest during activities where collisions can occur, such as during athletic, physical education, and recreational activities. This policy serves to provide guidelines to educate staff members, coaches, parents, and students as to concussions and to provide protocols for assessing and deciding when a student returns to play after suffering a suspected head injury/concussion.

Course of Instruction

Every coach, physical education teacher, nurse, and athletic trainer in the District shall complete, on an annual basis, a course of instruction relating to recognizing the symptoms of a suspected head injury/concussion and monitoring and seeking proper medical treatment for individuals who suffer a suspected head injury/concussion.

The course of instruction must include:

- The definition of “concussion”;
- Signs and symptoms of a concussion;
- How such injuries may occur;
- Practices regarding prevention; and
- Guidelines for the return to school and certain school activities regardless of whether the injury occurred inside or outside of school.

Web Site

The District shall include information regarding concussions and current guidelines on the District’s Web site or reference how to obtain such information from the Web sites of the New York State Department of Education and the Department of Health.

Permission/Consent/Application Forms

All permission/consent/application forms regarding participation in interscholastic sports shall include information on suspected head injury/concussions.

Management and Recognition of Concussion

Management and recognition of a concussion should be performed by the coach, physical education teacher, athletic trainer, physician, nurse, or other appropriately trained individuals. The District will maintain a “Return to Play Protocol” in the appropriate building level nurse’s office. This form will be followed whenever a student is believed to have sustained or has sustained a suspected head injury/concussion.

The District will require the immediate removal from athletic activities of any student who has sustained, or who is believed to have sustained, a suspected head injury/concussion. In the event that there is any doubt as to whether a student has sustained a concussion, it shall be presumed that the student has been injured until proven otherwise. No such student will resume athletic activity until the student has been:

1. symptom free for not less than twenty-four hours; and

2. evaluated by, and the District has received written and signed authorization from, the student's private licensed physician that the student may participate in athletic and extracurricular activities; and
3. cleared by the District's medical director to participate in such activities.

Concussion Management Team

The District, in its discretion, may establish a concussion management team that may be composed of the athletic director, school nurse, school physician, coaches, certified athletic trainer, or other personnel designated by the District. If established, the concussion management team will oversee and implement the District's concussion policies and procedures including, without limitation, the District's "Return to Play Protocol" that will be followed whenever a student is believed to have sustained a suspected head injury/concussion.

Adopted: September 3, 2013