
Student Concussions and Head Injuries

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement a program to manage concussions and head injuries suffered by students. The program shall provide for each of the following:

1. The appointment or approval by the Board of members of a Concussion Oversight Team for the District.
2. Immediate removal of a student from physical activity including, without limitation, recess, physical education, and interscholastic athletic practice or competition, if any of the following individuals believes the student might have sustained a concussion, regardless of whether or not the student was participating in an interscholastic athletic activity: the student, the student's parent/guardian, a teacher, an administrator, a coach, an athletic trainer, a game official, a physician, or any other person deemed appropriate under the District's *Concussion Care Protocol (Procedure 7.305-AP2)*.
3. Establishment of a *Concussion Care Protocol* by the Concussion Oversight Team that includes the following based on peer-reviewed scientific evidence consistent with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
 - a. A return-to-learn protocol governing a student's return to the classroom following a force of impact believed to have caused a concussion.
 - b. A return-to-play protocol governing a student's return to physical activity including, without limitation, recess, physical education, or interscholastic athletic practice or competition, following a force of impact believed to have caused a concussion. A student removed from interscholastic athletic practice or competition shall not be allowed to return to practice or competition until all prerequisites under the Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act are completed, including without limitation, evaluation by a treating physician, physician assistant (PA), or advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), or a licensed athletic trainer working under the supervision of a physician and completion of the return-to-learn and the return-to-play protocols. An athletic team coach or assistant coach may not authorize a student's return-to-learn or return-to-play.

The Superintendent or designee shall supervise the Building Principals and athletic directors responsible for compliance with the *Concussion Care Protocol*.

4. Concussion training as specified in the Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act for the following individuals: all building administrators; PE teachers; coaches and assistant coaches (whether volunteer or a District employee) of interscholastic athletic activities; nurses, licensed healthcare professionals or non-licensed healthcare professionals who serve on the Concussion Oversight Team; athletic trainers; game officials of interscholastic athletic activities; and physicians who serve on the Concussion Oversight Team.
5. Full implementation of the other requirements of the Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act including:
 - a. Requiring each student athlete and student athlete's parent/guardian to sign a concussion information receipt for each school year before participating in an interscholastic athletic activity.

- b. Approval of school-specific emergency action plans by the Board to address the serious injuries and acute medical conditions in which a student's condition may deteriorate rapidly.
6. Compliance 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 for Concussion*, which includes its *Return-to-Play (RTP) 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, PA, APRN, 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 the school with written clearance from a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois, PA, APRN, or a certified athletic trainer working in conjunction with a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois.
7. A requirement that all high school coaching personnel, including the head and assistant coaches, and athletic directors obtain online concussion certification by completing online concussion awareness training in accordance with 105 ILCS 25/1.15.
8. A requirement that all student athletes view the Illinois High School Association's video about concussions.
9. Information for student athletes and their parents/guardians about this policy in the *Agreement to Participate* or other written instrument that a student athlete and their parent/guardian must sign before the student is allowed to participate in a practice or interscholastic competition.
10. Educational materials from the IHSA for coaches and student athletes and their parent(s)/guardian(s) regarding the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries, including the risks inherent in continuing to play after a concussion or head injury.
11. A requirement for staff members to notify the parent/guardian of a student who exhibits symptoms consistent with that of a concussion.
12. A requirement for staff members to distribute the Ill. Dept. of Public Health concussion brochure to any student or the parent/guardian of a student who may have sustained a concussion, regardless of whether or not the concussion occurred while the student was participating in an interscholastic athletic activity, if available.
13. A requirement for certified athletic trainers to complete and submit a monthly report to the IHSA on student athletes who have sustained a concussion during: 1) a school-sponsored activity overseen by the athletic trainer; or 2) a school-sponsored event of which the athletic director is made aware.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/22-80 added by P.A. 99-245.
105 ILCS 25/1.15, Interscholastic Athletic Organization Act.
20 ILCS 2310/2310-307, Civil Administrative Code of Illinois.

CROSS REF.: 4.170 (Safety), 5.100 (Staff Development Program), 7.300 (Extracurricular Athletics)

ADMIN. PROC.: 2.150-AP1 (Superintendent Committees), 7.300-E1 (Agreement to Participate), 7.305-AP1 (Program for Managing Student Concussions and Head Injuries), 7.305-AP1, E1 (Concussion Information), 7.305-AP1, E2 (Emergency Action Plan Template), 7.305-AP2 (Concussion Care Protocol – Return-to-Learn and Return-to-Play), 7.305-AP2, E1 (Concussion Staging Form for Students Who Participate in Interscholastic Athletic Activities), 7.305-AP2, E2 (Concussion Form for Students Who Do Not Participate in Interscholastic Athletic Activities), 7.305-AP2, E3 (Return-to-Play Consent Form), 7.305-AP2, E4 (Concussion Care Graphic – Return-to-Learn and Return-to-Play)