

Information Item F.5

Concussions and Concussion Management Protocol for High Schools in Texas

Background: from the UIL - Concussions received by participants in sports activities are an ongoing concern at all levels. Recent interest and research in this area has prompted reevaluations of treatment and management recommendations from the high school to the professional level. Numerous agencies and associations throughout the United States responsible for developing guidelines addressing the management of concussion in high school student-athletes have developed or revised their guidelines for concussion management.

The information provided here will update interested stakeholders on the UIL requirements for concussion management in student-athletes participating in activities under the jurisdiction of the UIL and will also provide information on compliance with the law.

A concussion is type of traumatic brain injury that interferes with normal function of the brain. It occurs when the brain is rocked back and forth or twisted inside the skull as a result of a blow to the head or body. What may appear to be only a mild jolt or blow to the head or body can result in a concussion.

The Return to Play Guidelines required by state law indicate that parents, in consenting for their student to return to participation following a concussion, understand the immunity provisions contained in the law. Those immunity provisions are contained in [Section 38.159 of the Texas Education Code](#).

Texas Education Code now requires that, in regard to the Concussion Management Protocol for the school district: "The school district superintendent or the superintendent's designee or, in the case of a home-rule school district or open-enrollment charter school, the person who serves the function of superintendent or that person's designee shall supervise an athletic trainer or other person responsible for compliance with the return-to-play protocol. The person who has supervisory responsibilities under this subsection may not be a coach of an interscholastic athletics team."

The UIL has created this Concussion Acknowledgement Form, which will be required for all student athletes in grades 7-12 beginning with the 2012-13 school year, as a result of the passage of HB 2038 from the 2011 legislative session.

According to section 38.155 of the Texas Education Code, 'a student may not participate in an interscholastic athletic activity for a school year until both the student and the student's parent or guardian or another person with legal authority to make medical decisions for the student have signed a form for that school year that acknowledges receiving and reading written information that explains concussion prevention, symptoms, treatment, and oversight and that includes guidelines for safely resuming participation in an athletic activity following a concussion.