

# DRAFT UPDATE

Oak Park School District 97

7:305

## 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~~ students. The program shall:

1. Prepare for the full implementation of the Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act, that provides, without limitation, each of the following:
  - a. The Board must appoint or approve 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 an athletic trainer or other person 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: a coach, a physician, a game official, an athletic trainer, the student's parent/guardian, the student, or 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: all coaches or assistant coaches (whether volunteer or a district employee) of interscholastic athletic activities; nurses who serve on the Concussion Oversight Team; athletic trainers; game officials of interscholastic athletic activities; and physicians who serve on the Concussion Oversight Team.
  - g. The Board shall approve school-specific emergency action plans for interscholastic athletic activities to address the serious injuries and acute medical conditions in which a student's condition may deteriorate rapidly.

**Comment [AKL1]:** Three Illinois statutes in the School Code govern student concussions:  
(1) The Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act, 105 ILCS 5/22-80, added by P.A. 99-245; if approved by the House and signed by the Governor, SB219 will extend the effective date to the 2016-2017 school year.  
(2) 105 ILCS 5/10-20.54  
(3) 105 ILCS 25/1.15, added by P.A. 98-1011.  
See the **Issue 90 Update Memo** for a description of these laws.  
Most of the policy's revisions are due to the Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act.  
**Issue 90, October 2015**

**Comment [AKL2]:** The return-to-learn protocol governs a student's return to the classroom after a concussion, whether or not the concussion took place while the student was participating in an interscholastic athletic activity. Guidance from Lurie Children's Hospital explains that recovery from a concussion must be an individualized process because no two concussions are the same. See *A Guide for Teachers and School Professionals*, Lurie Children's Hospital.  
**Issue 90, October 2015**

**Comment [AKL3]:** The form must be approved by the Illinois High School Association (IHSA). See [ihsa.org/Resources/SportsMedicine/ConcussionManagement/ConcussionResources.aspx](http://ihsa.org/Resources/SportsMedicine/ConcussionManagement/ConcussionResources.aspx), generally and specifically IHSA Concussion Protocols and IHSA Sports Medicine Acknowledgement & Consent Form (Concussion, PES, Asthma Medication).  
**Issue 90, October 2015**

**Comment [AKL4]:** A template is available on the IHSA website under *Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Resources* at [ihsa.org/Resources/SportsMedicine/ConcussionManagement/ConcussionResources.aspx](http://ihsa.org/Resources/SportsMedicine/ConcussionManagement/ConcussionResources.aspx).  
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~~1-2.~~ Comply with the concussion protocols, policies, and by-laws of the Illinois High School Association, including its *Protocol for NFHS Concussion 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 or a certified athletic trainer working in conjunction with a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois.

~~3.~~ Require all student athletes to view the Illinois High School Association's video about concussions.

~~2-4.~~ 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.

~~3-5.~~ 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.

~~4-6.~~ 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 5/10-20.54.  
105 ILCS 5/22-80 added by P.A. 99-245; if approved by the House and signed by the Governor, SB219 will extend the effective date to the 2016-2017 school year.  
105 ILCS 25/1.15.

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

ADOPTED: ~~September 10, 2013~~