

DRAFT UPDATE

Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative

7:305

Edited

Students

Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries

^{Executive Director}
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, generally and specifically IHSA Concussion Protocols and IHSA Sports Medicine Acknowledgement & Consent Form (Concussion, P.E.S. 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.
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Executive Director

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4.2. 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 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.

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

2.5. 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.

3.6. 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.

4.7. 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: June 5, 2013