

Book	Policy Manual
Section	100 Programs
Title	Concussion Management
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## **Purpose**

The Board recognizes the importance of ensuring the safety of all students. This policy has been developed to provide guidance for the prevention, detection, treatment and management of students regarding a concussion.

## **Definitions**

A **concussion** is caused by a bump, blow, jolt to the head, from a fall or a blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. Typically there is no loss of consciousness. Concussion is a functional rather than structural disturbance that can change the way your brain normally works.

**Appropriate medical professional** shall mean all of the following:[\[1\]](#)

1. A licensed physician (MD or DO) who is trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.
2. A licensed health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and designated by a licensed physician trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.
3. A licensed neuropsychologist trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.

**Athletic activity** shall mean only P.I.A.A. sanctioned activities.[\[1\]](#)

**School activities** shall mean participation in any school activity, including major, minor and special subject areas, lunch, assemblies, clubs and all after school activities.

## **Prevention**

### **Delegation of Responsibility**

The Kutztown Area School District believes that prevention is the best approach to the silent epidemic of brain injury. A meeting will be held within the first semester of each school year at a time that maximizes attendance with others scheduled as necessary. Meetings will be open to all students (K-12), parents/guardians and other interested parties.[\[2\]](#)

Information for all students regarding concussions and other head injuries, the importance of proper concussion management, and how preseason baseline assessments can aid in the evaluation, management and recovery process will be made available through multiple channels such as the district website, Facebook, Twitter, CougarServ, and the Sports Physical Packet. Additionally, all coaches must share with students and parents/guardians the number of first concussions and any subsequent concussions sustained in their sport in the prior season. Furthermore, an updated concussion report,

developed jointly by the school nurses and the athletic director, will be provided to the Board on a monthly basis.

### **Detection**

The responsible party at the event where the concussion occurred, i.e., coach/athletic trainer or school employee, shall immediately remove the student from the activity and notify school administration or designee.

### **Treatment and Management**

The District recognizes that recovery is individualized and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. All students who are suspected of suffering a concussion or head injury should not return to a school activity until cleared in writing by a medical professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions. If ongoing concerns of headache or focusing difficulties after clearance by the students' primary care physician, it is recommended the affected student undergo a neurological or rehabilitation physical therapy evaluation.

### **Training for Staff and Coaches**

At the beginning of each school year all teaching and non-teaching staff shall complete a concussion management training course utilizing the Safe Schools online system.

As required by state law (Act of November 2011, P.L. 411, #101), all coaches and volunteer coaches shall annually, prior to coaching an athletic activity, complete a concussion management certification training course offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Federation of State High School Associations or another provider approved by the Department of Health.

### **Penalties for Staff**

#### **Guidelines**

A staff member found in violation of the provisions of this policy shall be subject to penalties to be determined by Superintendent. [\[2\]](#)


### **Penalties for Coaches**

A coach found in violation of the provisions of this policy shall be subject to the following penalties:

1. For a **first** violation, suspension from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season.
2. For a **second** violation, suspension from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season and for the next season.
3. For a **third** violation, permanent suspension from coaching any athletic activity.

**Please refer to the Administrative Regulations for guidelines and additional important information.**

Legal                    [1. 24 P.S. 5322](#)  
                               [2. 24 P.S. 5323](#)  
                               Pol. 122  
                               Pol. 123

 [AR-1 Concussion Management Permission for Release of Information form.pdf \(419 KB\)](#)

 [AR-2 Concussion Accomodations Form.pdf \(249 KB\)](#)