

POLICY

UNION COUNTY
EDUCATIONAL
SERVICES COMMISSION
PROGRAM

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Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related
Concussions and Head Injuries
M

2431.4 PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF SPORTS-RELATED
CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES

~~Medical management of concussion/traumatic brain injury (TBI) continues to evolve. Recently, there has been a significant amount of new research regarding sports-related concussions in high school athletes, but TBI also occurs in non-athletic settings. According to the CDC, recent data shows that, on average, approximately 1.7 million people sustain a traumatic brain injury annually.~~

A concussion is a traumatic brain injury caused by a blow or motion to the head or body that disrupts the normal functioning of the brain and can cause significant and sustained neuropsychological impairments including, but not limited to, problem solving, planning, memory, and behavioral problems. In order to ensure safety, it is imperative that students participating in athletic competition, coaches, and parents are educated about the nature and treatment of sports-related concussions and other head injuries. Allowing a student to return to athletic competition before recovering from a concussion increases the chance of a more serious brain injury.

New Jersey Legislation (P.L.2010, Chapter 94) (N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.4) requires each school district, charter, and non-public school who participate in interscholastic athletics to adopt by September 1, 2011 a policy concerning the prevention and treatment of sports related concussions and other head injuries among student-athletes.

As a result of this law, The School Concussion Management Program was created by our School Medical Inspector to meet the requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.4.

The School Concussion Management Program will incorporate the following modules:

1. Education about concussion for athletes, coaches, school personnel and parents;
2. Procedures for staff to follow in managing concussions, and
3. School policy as it pertains to return to play/academics issues following a concussion.

The purpose of this program is to provide the tools and assessment procedures for a safe return to activity/academic instruction for all students following a concussion. In order to effectively and consistently manage these injuries, procedures have been developed to aid in insuring that affected students are identified, evaluated and referred appropriately for medical care, receive appropriate follow-up evaluations during school and are recovered prior to returning to full athletic and academic activities.

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The Board requires strict adherence to this Policy in the event a student sustains a head injury or an injury that could cause a concussion.

Adopted: March 7, 2012

Revised: