

Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries

Section A - Introduction

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement a program to manage concussions and head injuries suffered by student athletes. The program shall:

1. Comply with the concussion protocols, policies, and by-laws of the Illinois High School Association. These specifically require that:
 - a. A student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion in a practice or interscholastic contest shall be removed from participation or competition at that time.
 - b. A student athlete who has been removed from an interscholastic contest or practice for a possible concussion or head injury may not return to that interscholastic contest or practice unless cleared to do so by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois Doctor of Medicine/Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, a certified athletic trainer, an advanced practice nurse, or a physician assistant.
 - c. If not cleared to return to that interscholastic contest or practice, 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 Doctor of Medicine/Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, a certified athletic trainer, an advanced practice nurse, or a physician assistant, and has completed the school's Return-to-Play and Return-to-Learn protocols.
 - d. Once removed from an interscholastic contest or practice, the student shall be expected to follow the directions of the physician, certified athletic trainer, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant.
2. 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 contest.
3. 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. Include a requirement for staff members to notify the parent/guardian of a student who exhibits symptoms consistent with that of a concussion.

Approved: November 12, 2013

Revised: August 17, 2023