

CONCUSSION POLICY

I. The Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District recognizes that concussions and head injuries are commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activity and can have serious consequences if not managed carefully. Therefore, the District adopts the following policy to support the proper evaluation and management of head injuries.

II. NYS Education Law Section 305, 42 defines concussion as a mild traumatic brain injury. Concussions occur when normal brain functioning is disrupted by a blow or jolt to the head. Recovery from concussion will vary. Avoiding re-injury and over fully recovered are the cornerstones of proper concussion management.

III. Staff Qualification

Each school coach, physical education teacher, nurse, and athletic trainer, who works with and/or provides instruction to pupils engaged in school sponsored athletic activities, shall complete, on a biennial basis, a course of instruction relating to recognizing the symptoms of mild traumatic brain injuries and monitoring and seeking proper medical treatment for pupils who suffer mild traumatic brain injuries. This course must be approved by the State Education Department. Coaches may also meet the mandatory training every two (2) years by taking the approved course Concussion in Sports-V2.0 from the National Federation of State High School Associations.

IV. While district staff will exercise reasonable care to protect students, head injuries may still occur. Any student exhibiting those signs, symptoms or behaviors while participating in a school sponsored class, extracurricular activity, or interscholastic athletic activity shall be removed from the game, or activity and be evaluated as soon as possible by an appropriate health care professional. The Coach, Advisor, School Nurse, and/or School Doctor will notify the student's parents or guardians and recommend appropriate monitoring to parents or guardians.

V. If a student sustains a concussion at a time other than when engaged in a school sponsored activity, the district expects the parent/legal guardian to report the condition to the School Nurse so that the district can support the appropriate management of the condition.

VI. The student shall not return to school or activity until authorized to do so by an appropriate health care professional. The school's chief medical officer will make the final decision on return to activity including physical education class and after-school sports. Any student who continues

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VI.(cont) to have signs or symptoms upon return to activity must be removed from play and reevaluated by their health care provider.

VII. The Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate district staff, including the chief school medical officer, will develop regulations and protocols to guide the return to activity.

New York Mills Union Free School District

Legal Ref: 8 NYCRR 136.5; NYS Education Law Sections 207, 305(42), 2854

Adopted: 04/03/12

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