

CONCUSSION POLICY

I. Policy

The Board of Education of the New York Mills Union Free School District recognizes the importance of raising awareness about concussion throughout the school community and to educate students, staff, parents, and others about how to prevent, recognize and respond to concussions.

II. Definition

For purposes of this policy, concussion is defined as a type of traumatic brain injury, or TBI, caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or by a hit to the body that causes the head or brain to move rapidly back and forth.¹

III. Staff Qualification

Each school coach, physical education teacher, nurse, and certified 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 or Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

IV. Awareness and Acknowledgement

- A. 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. In the event that there is any doubt as to whether a student has sustained a concussion, it shall be presumed that the student has been so injured until proven otherwise.
- B. 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.

¹ Center for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/sports/index.html>

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- C. Any permission form or consent form required to be signed and returned as a condition of participation in interscholastic sports will include a copy of the information posted on the State Education Department's website relating to mild traumatic brain injury, as referenced in Section 136.5(c)(1) of the Commissioner's Regulations.
 - D. The District's website shall include a link to the State Education Department's website page relating to mild traumatic brain injury.
- V. Return to School and/or Activity
- A. 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 to have signs or symptoms upon return to activity must be removed from play and reevaluated by their health care provider.
 - B. 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.
 - C. Authorization shall be kept on file in the student's permanent health record.
 - D. The District shall follow any directives issued by the student's treating physician with regard to limitations and restrictions on school attendance and activities for the student.
 - E. Any student who continues to have signs or symptoms upon return to school and/or activity must be removed from school sponsored class, extracurricular activity, or interscholastic athletic activity and re-evaluated by a licensed physician.

New York Mills Union Free School District

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

Adopted: 04/03/12

Revised: 11/05/13, 11/03/15, 02/05/19