

**Bristol Warren Regional School District**  
**Concussion Care Management**

**I. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide information and standardized procedures for all persons involved in working with and caring for students who have incurred a head injury, in accordance with the School and Youth Programs Concussion Act of 2010, Chapter 16-91 of the Rhode Island General Laws and of the Rhode Island Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs 18.18

**II. Definitions**

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or by a hit to the body that causes the head and brain to move rapidly back and forth. This sudden movement can cause the brain to bounce around or twist in the skull, creating chemical changes in the brain and sometimes stretching and damaging brain cells.

**III. Prevention of Head Injuries and Concussions**

- A.** All coaches, volunteers, physical education teachers, and school nurses must complete a training course and/or refresher course annually thereafter in concussions and traumatic brain injuries. This shall include the signs and symptoms of concussions as well as the protocol for treatment.
- B.** This training shall be based on materials made available by the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention Heads Up : Concussion in the High School Sports/Concussion in Youth Sports and any updates or amendments thereto, or training materials substantially similar. Training may consist of videos, classes, and any other generally accepted mode and medium of providing information.
- C.** Parents/guardians and student athletes shall receive information related to the risk of concussion and/or traumatic brain injuries prior to the start of every sport season and they shall sign and acknowledge receipt of such information. They shall be advised of the signs and symptoms of concussions as well as the protocol for treatment.
- D.** All coaches, volunteers, physical education teachers shall adhere to RI youth sports safety regulations and guidelines, including the use of appropriate protective headgear and face masks.

**IV. Protocols for Management of Head Injuries and Concussions**

- A. If a head injury occurs during school hours:** A student who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury shall be removed from the activity immediately and escorted to the School Nurse Teacher for evaluation. If a

concussion is suspected, the a parent/guardian will be notified and advised that the student must be seen by a licensed physician. Documentation regarding the injury, parent contact, and outcome must be recorded by the school nurse.

- B. If the head injury occurs during practice or a game:** A student who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury shall be removed from the practice or game immediately. A parent/guardian will be notified and advised that the student must be seen by a licensed physician. Documentation regarding the injury, parent contact, and outcome must be recorded and submitted to the school nurse.
- C. If a head injury occurs during non-school related times or activities:** If a student sustains a concussion during non-school times, the parent/guardian will report the injury to the school nurse and provide documentation of the diagnosis and plan of treatment. If a concussion is suspected, the parent shall be notified and the student must be seen by a licensed health-care provider. Documentation regarding the injury must be recorded by the School Nurse.

#### V. **Return to School Guidelines**

- A.** All youth who have been removed from a school activity, practice, or game, may not return to the activity until they have been evaluated by a licensed physician. The parent/guardian must provide written clearance from the licensed physician that the student may participate in practices and games, and in other school activities such as physical education and recess. This shall be submitted to the school nurse. In addition, a concussion and head injury information sheet shall be signed and returned by the youth athlete and the athlete's parent and/or guardian prior to the youth athlete's return to practice or competition.
- B.** The physician's recommendations for academic accommodations and physical activity including physical education, recess and athletics must be completed by the healthcare provider and shared with the School Nurse Teacher and school principal or his/her designee and appropriate staff.
- C.** The Athletic Trainer will initiate and monitor the return to play protocol once the student's physician has cleared him/her for full physical participation, and classroom teachers are reporting that the student has returned to pre-injury academic functioning.

This policy is in accordance with the School and Youth Programs Concussion Act of 2010, Chapter 16-91 of the Rhode Island General Laws and of the Rhode Island Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs 18.18

ADOPTED: March 25, 2019

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LEGAL REFS: RI General Law 16-91-1  
RI General Law 16-91-2  
RI General Law 16-91-3  
RI General Law 16-91-4