

SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Salem, Connecticut

STUDENTS

STUDENT SPORTS - CONCUSSIONS

The Board of Education recognizes that concussions and head injuries are commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and other recreational activities. The Board acknowledges the risk of catastrophic injuries or deaths are significant when a concussion or head injury is not properly evaluated and managed.

Commencing July 1, 2010, and each school year thereafter, any coach of intramural or interscholastic athletics employed by the District shall complete an initial training course, approved by the State Board of Education, regarding concussions, which are a type of brain injury, prior to commencing the coaching assignment for the season. Such training course shall include, but not be limited to (1) the recognition of the signs and symptoms of a concussion; (2) the means of obtaining proper medical treatment for a person suspected of having a concussion; (3) the nature and risk of concussions, including the danger of continuing to engage in athletic activity after sustaining a concussion; and (4) the proper method of allowing a student athlete who has sustained a concussion to return to athletic activity.

Each school year any coach who has completed the initial training course regarding concussions shall annually review current and relevant information, developed or approved by the State Board of Education, regarding concussions prior to the start of the coaching assignment. This annual review is not required in any year the coach is required to complete a refresher course. Beginning July 15, 2015, and each school year thereafter, a coach must complete an approved refresher course not later than five years after the initial training course in order to maintain his/her coaching permit and to coach in the District.

Such refresher course shall include, but not be limited to: an overview of key recognition and safety practices; an update on medical developments and current best practices in the field of concussion research, prevention and treatment and an update on new relevant federal, state and local laws and regulations.

Commencing July 1, 2015, and each year thereafter, the District shall prohibit a student athlete from participating in any intramural or interscholastic activity unless the student athlete and a parent or guardian of such student athlete (1) reads written materials, (2) views online training or videos or (3) attends in-person training regarding the concussion education plan developed or approved by the State of Connecticut.

In addition, commencing July 1, 2015, and each school year thereafter, the District shall provide each participating student athlete's parent or guardian with a copy of the informed consent form developed or approved by the State Board of Education. Such informed consent form shall

include, at a minimum, (A) a summary of the concussion education plan and (B) a summary of the District's policies regarding concussions. The District must obtain the parent or legal guardian's signature, attesting to the fact that such parent or legal guardian has received a copy of such form and authorizes the student athlete to participate in the athletic activity.

The coach of any intramural or interscholastic athletics shall immediately remove a student athlete from participating in any intramural or interscholastic athletic activity who (A) is observed to exhibit signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the head or body or (B) is diagnosed with a concussion, regardless of when such concussion may have occurred. Upon such removal, the coach or another qualified school employee (principal, teacher, licensed athletic trainer, licensed physical or occupational therapist employed by the District, or school paraprofessional), shall notify the student athlete's parent or legal guardian that the student athlete has exhibited such signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or has been diagnosed with a concussion. Such qualified school employee shall provide such notification not later than 24 hours after such removal and shall make a reasonable effort to provide such notification immediately after such removal.

The coach shall not permit such student athlete to participate in any supervised team activities involving physical exertion, including, but not limited to, practices, games or competitions, until such student athlete receives written clearance to participate in such supervised team activities involving physical exertion from a licensed health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.

Following clearance outlined above, the coach shall not permit such student athlete to participate in any full, unrestricted supervised team activities without limitations on contact or physical exertion, including, but not limited to, practices, games, or competitions, until such student athlete (A) no longer exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion at rest or with exertion and (B) receives written clearance to participate in such full, unrestricted supervised team activities from a licensed health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes:

PA 10-62 An Act Concerning Student Athletes and Concussions. PA-1466 An Act Concerning Youth Athletics and Concussions. "Concussion Education Plan and Guidelines for Connecticut Schools" adopted by the State Board of Education, January 7, 2015.

Policy 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: August 18, 2014

Policy Adopted: September 8, 2014

Revised Policy 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: June 1, 2015

Revised Policy Adopted: July 20, 2015

jlk