

GHSA and HCS Athletics Concussion Policy:

In accordance with Georgia law and national playing rules published by the NFHS, any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion, shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest and shall not return to play until an appropriate healthcare professional has determined that no concussion has occurred. (NOTE: An appropriate health care professional may include licensed physician (MD/DO) or another licensed individual under the supervision of a licensed physician, such as a nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, or certified athletic trainer who has received training in concussion evaluation and management).

- (1) No athlete is allowed to return to a game or practice on the same day that a concussion
 - (a) has been diagnosed OR
 - (b) cannot be ruled out.
- (2) Any athlete diagnosed with a concussion shall be cleared medically by an appropriate health care professional prior to resuming participation in any future practice or contest. The formulation of a gradual return to play protocol shall be a part of the medical clearance.
- (3) Any athlete who has been diagnosed with a concussion must fully return to school (if in session) for a full day prior to returning to practice.
- (4) It is mandatory that every coach in each GHSA sport (including Community Coaches, Student Teachers, and Interns) participate in a free, online course on concussion management prepared by the NFHS and available at www.nfhslearn.com at least every two years.
- (5) Each school will be responsible for monitoring the participation of its coaches in the concussion management course, and shall keep a record of those who participate.
- (6) Each school must distribute to every athlete and his/her parent/guardian an information sheet that includes:
 - (a) the dangers of concussion injuries, the signs/symptoms of concussion,
 - (b) and the concussion management protocol outlined in this by-law.

This sheet must be signed by the parent/guardian of each athlete and a copy kept on file at the school or in online storage platforms.

The concussion awareness form and all other pre-participation forms are located on each school's athletics webpage and the HCS Athletics webpage: <https://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/Page/141>