

CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT

I. Policy

The Board of Education of the Waterville Central School District recognizes the importance of raising awareness about concussion throughout the school community and to educate students, 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 signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with concussion while participating in a school sponsored class, extracurricular activity, or interscholastic sport shall be removed from the class, game, or activity and be evaluated as soon as possible by an appropriate health care professional. The coach, advisor, school nurse or 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

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

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condition to the school nurse so that the district can support the appropriate management of the condition.

- 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. An informational packet provided by the New York State Department of Health's website about concussions and sub-concussive blows, and the injuries that might occur as a result of receiving such blows, will be provided by the district/BOCES to parents or guardians of all children participating in tackle football programs.
 - E. 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 resume athletic activity only after he/she have been symptom free for not less than twenty-four hours, and has been evaluated by and received written and signed authorization from a licensed physician.
 - B. Authorization shall be kept on file in the student's permanent health record.
 - C. 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.
 - D. 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.
- VI. Concussion Management Team
- A. A Concussion Management Team shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation in the District of Section 136.5 of the Commissioner's Regulations, and for making recommendations to the Superintendent for the dissemination of information about mild traumatic brain injury to parents and person in parental relation to students. A Concussion Management Team may also establish and implement a program which provides information on mild traumatic brain injuries to parents and persons in parental relation throughout each school year.

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- B. The Concussion Management Team shall consist of: [any combination of the following may be designated]: the athletic director; a school nurse; the school physician; a coach of an interscholastic team; a certified athletic trainer; or other appropriate personnel as designated by the school or school district.

Waterville Central School District

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

Adopted: 09/11/12

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