Administrative Directive 3.50.121-AD

Concussion Training, Management, and Accommodations

I. Concussion Training and Management in Athletics

PPS takes student concussions very seriously. In compliance with state law, PPS will ensure that athletic coaches receive annual training in order to learn how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion, and how to respond when a student is suspected of having a concussion. This directive establishes the requirements for the training, including the timelines to ensure that coaches receive training before the beginning of the season for the school athletic team, and the responsibilities of coaches and the PPS athletic department.

A. Definitions

"Annual training" means once in a 12-month period

"Coach" means a person who instructs or trains members on a school athletic team and may be a PPS employee, a volunteer, or any person who is performing services on behalf of PPS pursuant to a contract.

"Concussion" means exhibiting signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion following and observed or suspected blow to the head or body.

"Health Care Professional" means a medical doctor, osteopathic physician, psychologist, physician assistant or nurse practitioner licensed or certified under the laws of this state..

"Proper Medical Treatment" means treatment provided by a licensed health care professional which is within their scope of practice.

"Return to Participation" means a student can rejoin the athletic event or training.

"Training timeline" means every coach receives the training prior to the beginning of the season for the school athletic team they are specifically coaching.

"Same day" means the same calendar day on which the injury occurs.

B. Responsibilities- PPS Athletics Department

The Athletics Department will:

i. Maintain a current list of coaches

ii. Identify which resources PPS will use to provide the required training

iii. Develop training timelines for coaches of all school athletic teams

iv. Monitor and ensure that coaches receive training once every 12 months and prior to the beginning of the season for the athletic team they are coaching

v. Develop a tracking system to document that all coaches meet the training timeline

C. Responsibilities- Coaches

i. Coaches will complete annual concussion management training within PPS's training timeline.

ii. Coaches will not allow a member of a school athletic team to participate in any athletic event or training on the same calendar day that the athlete:

   a. Exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion following and observed or suspected blow to the head or body; or

   b. Has been diagnosed with a concussion.

iii. Coaches will notify or attempt to notify the parent or guardian of the athlete as soon as the athlete exhibits sign, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the head or body.

iv. Coaches will not allow a student with a diagnosed concussion, or symptoms of a diagnosed concussion, to return to participate in an athletic event or training until the following two conditions are met:

   a. The student no longer exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion; and

   b. The student receives a medical release from a health care professional.

D. Athletic Trainers

Athletic trainers who are registered by the Oregon Board of Athletic Trainers may determine that an athlete has not suffered a concussion and return the athlete to play. Athletic trainers may also work in consultation with a health care professional in determining when an athlete is able to return to play following a concussion.

E. Athletic Officials

i. If an official removes an athlete from a contest when that player exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion, OSAA requires the official to notify the head coach, or designee.

ii. The official is not responsible for evaluation or management of the athlete after he/she is removed from a contest. It is the responsibility of the school and health care professionals to determine further evaluation, management of the athlete, and return to participation.

F. Training Requirements

Training required of coaches will include the following:

i. Training in how to recognize the signs and symptoms of a concussion;

ii. Training in strategies to reduce the risk of concussions;

iii. Training in how to seek proper medical treatment for a person suspected of having a concussion; and

iv. Training in determination of when the athlete may safely return to the event or training.

II. Accommodations for Concussion or Other Brain Injury

Upon written notification from a parent or guardian that a student has been diagnosed with a concussion or other brain injury by a health care professional and that accommodations are being requested, PPS will follow all procedures developed by the Oregon Department of Education to develop and implement an immediate and temporary accommodation plan.

Any accommodations will be communicated to the parent or guardian, to all teachers who provide instruction to the student, and to other staff who have regular responsibilities for the student's supervision or health.

Accommodations will be in effect no later than ten school days after the written notification is received by PPS and will be reviewed as needed, but no later than every two months.

Legal References: ORS 336.485; OAR 581-022-2215; OAR 581-021-3007
History: Revised 3/26