

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: Concussion Management

ADOPTED: January 19, 2017

REVISED:

123.1 CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT

Purpose

The School Reform Commission recognizes the importance of ensuring the safety of students participating in the district's athletic programs. This policy has been developed to provide guidance for prevention, detection and treatment of concussions sustained by students while participating in an athletic activity.

Definitions

Appropriate medical professional shall mean all of the following:[\[1\]](#)

1. A licensed physician who is trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.
2. A licensed or certified health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and designated by a licensed physician trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.
3. A licensed psychologist neuropsychologically trained in the evaluation and management of concussions or who has postdoctoral training in neuropsychology and specific training in the evaluation and management of concussions.

Athletic activity shall mean all of the following:[\[1\]](#)

1. Interscholastic athletics.[\[2\]](#)
2. An athletic contest or competition, other than interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated with a school, including cheerleading, club-sponsored sports activities and sports activities sponsored by school-affiliated organizations.[\[3\]](#)
3. Noncompetitive cheerleading that is sponsored by or associated with a school.[\[3\]](#)
4. Practices, interschool practices and scrimmages for all athletic activities.[\[3\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

Per Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) rules, all student athletes must have their PIAA CIPPE Form filled out by a physician, and signed by both the student-athlete and his/her parent/guardian.

Each school year, prior to participation in an athletic activity, every student athlete and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return the acknowledgement of receipt and review of the Concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury Information Sheet. [4]

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative procedures to implement this policy, which shall include protocols for concussion management.

Guidelines

The school may hold an informational meeting prior to the start of each athletic season for all competitors regarding concussions and other head injuries, the importance of proper concussion management, and how preseason baseline assessments can aid in the evaluation, management and recovery process. In addition to the student athletes, such meetings may include parents/guardians, coaches, other appropriate school officials, physicians, neuropsychologists, athletic trainers and physical therapists. [4]

Removal from Play

A student who, as determined by a game official, coach from the student's team, certified athletic trainer, licensed physician, licensed physical therapist or other official designated by the district, exhibits signs or symptoms of a concussion or traumatic brain injury while participating in an athletic activity shall be removed by the coach from participation at that time. [4]

Return to Play

The coach shall not return a student to participation until the student is evaluated and cleared for return to participation in writing by an appropriate medical professional. The SRC may designate a specific appropriate medical professional(s) to provide written clearance for return to participation. [4]

Training

All coaches shall annually, prior to coaching an athletic activity, complete a concussion management certification training course offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Federation of State High School Associations or another provider approved by the Department of Health. [4]

Penalties

A coach found in violation of the provisions of this policy related to removal from play and return to play shall be subject to the following penalties: [\[4\]](#)

1. For a first violation, suspension from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season.
2. For a second violation, suspension from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season and for the next season.
3. For a third violation, permanent suspension from coaching any athletic activity.

Legal References

1. 24 P.S. 5322
2. Pol. 123
3. Pol. 122
4. 24 P.S. 5323
24 P.S. 5321 et seq