

Policy Guide



Policy No. 123.1

Section PROGRAMS

Title CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT

Adopted MAY 22, 2018

Revised _____

	<p style="text-align: center;">POLICY NO. 123.1 CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THIS POLICY SHALL SUPERSEDE POLICY 230.1.</p> <p>Section 1 <u>Purpose</u></p> <p>The Board recognizes that concussions can have serious short-term and long-term consequences if not managed properly. Students participating in sports and recreational activities are at an increased risk of experiencing a concussion. The Board recognizes the importance of ensuring the safety of students participating in district programs and educating them of the potential risks.</p> <p>This policy has been developed to provide guidance for the detection, treatment, and short and long-term management of a concussion and its symptoms although prevention is the goal.</p> <p>Section 2 <u>Definitions</u></p> <p>Appropriate medical professional shall mean any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>24 P.S. Sec 5322</p>
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Section 4

Guidelines

The District will provide educational information concerning concussions in the Athletic Handbook, the district website and by any other reasonable means. The information provided will discuss 1) what a concussion is, 2) the symptoms of a concussion, 3) what I should do if I think I may have a concussion, and 4) how I can help prevent a concussion.

The District will hold an informational meeting at least annually 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.

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.

The student shall not return to school or activity until he or she has received written, signed authorization from a licensed physician to do so. Any student who continues to have signs or symptoms upon return to activity must be removed from play and be reevaluated by their family health care provider. The District's chief school physician will make the final decision on return to activity, including physical education class, recess, and after-school sports. Any and all authorizations to return to activity will be maintained by the District in the student's permanent medical file.

24 P.S. Sec. 5323

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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.

24 P.S. Sec. 5323

Penalties

A coach found in violation of the provisions of this policy related to removal from play and return to play shall be permanently suspended from coaching any athletic activity.

24 P.S. Sec. 5323

Education Support Services

The Board further recognizes the importance of ensuring that a student who has suffered a concussion, either during a school activity or outside school hours, be provided time for cognitive rest as necessary. As a result, a student who has sustained a concussion will be provided with appropriate safeguards and educational accommodations during the healing phase of his/her recovery. Because of the short-term nature of concussion, a student may require significant short-term program modifications without the benefit of an IEP or 504 Plan already in place. The District will ensure that any orders for cognitive rest during school hours or graduated return to classroom activity specified by such student's physician are followed.

References:

Safety In Youth Sports Act – 24 P.S. Sec. 5321 et seq.