



SECTION: PROGRAMS

POLICY: 123

**TITLE: CONCUSSION
MANAGEMENT**

ORIGINAL: February 24, 2014
CURRENT REVISION: February 1,
2021

**LAST REVIEWED BY THE
COMMITTEE:**

I. PURPOSE

The Board 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.

II. DEFINITIONS

Appropriate medical professional shall mean all of the following:

- A. A licensed physician who is trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. Athletic Activity shall be defined as all of the following:
 - a. Interscholastic athletics.
 - b. An athletic contest or competition, other than interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated with a school entity, including cheerleading, club-sponsored sports activities and sports activities sponsored by school-affiliated organizations.
 - c. Noncompetitive cheerleading that is sponsored by or associated with a school entity.
 - d. Practices, interschool practices and scrimmages for all of the activities listed under paragraphs (a), (b) and (c).
- E. Team Physician is that physician designated by the District who has training and/or certification in the evaluation, treatment, and management of specific athletic injuries.
- F. Athletic Trainer is a professional designated by the District who, with the consultation and supervision of the Team Physician, provides a variety of services, including injury prevention and recognition and immediate care, treatment, and rehabilitation of athletic trauma.
- G. Traumatic Brain Injury is a term used in this policy consistent with the use of this term in the Pennsylvania Safety In Youth Sports Act. A concussion is a form of a Traumatic Brain Injury.

III. POLICY

- A. General - Participation and Baselines

- a. Any student-athlete who has suffered a concussion and/or traumatic brain injury requiring diagnosis and treatment by the team physician or an appropriate medical professional shall not participate in any Athletic Activity until the student-athlete is released by the Team Physician or an Appropriate Medical Professional using the certification form specifically designated by the District.
 - b. Beginning in grade seven (7), all student-athletes participating in an Athletic Activity are required to take an initial baseline computerized neurocognitive assessment test designated by the District that will be used by the Team Physician or Appropriate Medical Professional to assist in determining an athlete's ability to return to play after suffering a concussion and/or a traumatic brain injury.
 - c. The initial baseline computerized neurocognitive assessment test ("assessment test") will be administered to all students in grade seven (7) who seek to participate in an Athletic Activity in the District and to all students in subsequent grades who were not assessed in grade seven, but who seek to participate in an Athletic Activity in the District. The assessment test shall be administered by trained personnel designated by the District and at times to be determined collaboratively between the District Superintendent and/or his/her designee, Athletic Director, Team Physician, neuropsychologist, and Athletic Trainer. The parent and/or guardian of a student who is otherwise required to participate in an assessment test may opt out of this test by submitting a completed District opt out form to the District's Athletic Trainer. The District shall retain a copy of all assessment test results at least until the later of the student's graduation from the District or the graduation of the student's class from the District.
 - d. Any athlete who, as determined by a game official, coach from the student-athlete's team, licensed physical therapist or other official specifically designated by the student-athlete's school entity, exhibits signs or symptoms of a concussion or traumatic brain injury, shall be removed from participation in any Athletic Activity at that time until s/he is evaluated and cleared for return to play in writing by the Team Physician or Appropriate Medical Professional.
 - e. Once identified with a concussion or traumatic brain injury, no student-athlete will be permitted to participate in practice and/or competition until s/he is certified as released to resume participation in practice and/or competition. This certification shall be made by the Team Physician or an Appropriate Medical Professional in writing on the District's certification form. The completed certification form shall be submitted to the District's Athletic Trainer for review and approval in conjunction with the successful completion of the Return to Play procedures. The District reserves the right to consult with the District Team Physician or another Appropriate Medical Professional, if necessary, to assist in determining an athlete's ability to return to play after suffering a concussion and/or traumatic brain injury.
 - f. Any release from concussion or traumatic brain injury granted by an Appropriate Medical Professional is subject to review by the Superintendent or designee, including but not limited to the Team Physician or another Appropriate Medical Professional, and the District reserves the right to deny any such release in the best interest of the student-athlete and the District.
- B. Educational Materials for Students and Parents
- a. Each school year, prior to the participation by the student in the Athletic Activity, all students and their parents/guardians participating in or desiring to participate in an

Athletic Activity, shall sign and return to the student's school an acknowledgement of receipt and review of a concussion and traumatic brain injury information sheet.

- b. Prior to the start of each school year, the District will hold an informational meeting for all student-athletes and disseminate related information 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. The informational meeting will be recorded and will be available for viewing throughout each school year. The participation in and viewing of the informational meeting can include parents, school officials, coaches, physicians, neuropsychologists, athletic trainers and physical therapists.

C. Training Course for Coaches

- a. Once each school year, each head coach and assistant coach must complete the 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 Pennsylvania Department of Health. Each head coach and assistant coach who has completed the concussion management certification training course shall provide to the District's Athletic Director a copy of proof of completion of that training course. A coach shall not coach an Athletic Activity until the coach completes the required training course in accordance with the Pennsylvania Safety In Youth Sports Act.

- D. All coaches are responsible to follow the procedures and protocols contained in this policy and to comply with the Pennsylvania Safety in Youth Sports Act. Failure to do so will result in the imposition of penalties, as set forth by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and more specifically in the Pennsylvania Safety in Youth Sports Act.

IV. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The Superintendent of the Wissahickon School District ("District") or designee shall develop, implement, and monitor a system of measures and guidelines that outline the steps and protocols required to assess, treat, manage, and release athletes who sustain concussions and/or traumatic brain injuries while participating in a District-sponsored activity or sport.

V. REFERENCES

School Code - 24 P.S. Sec. 511

Pennsylvania Safety in Youth Sports Act, Act 101 of 2011 (2011)