

PRESTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**FILE: 11 - STUDENTS****File: 11-46 Management of Concussions and Head Injuries in Student Athletes****Adopted: February 10, 2014****Last Reviewed:****July 2016**

The prevention and proper treatment of concussions and other head injuries ranks high on the Preston County Board of Education's list of priorities for all coaches of all athletic endeavors in the Preston County Schools, especially those engaged in interscholastic activities overseen by the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission.

Per WVC §18-2-25a, the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission has developed the following guidelines and protocols for addressing concussions and head injuries to high school and middle school athletes. The Preston County Board of Education adopts these guidelines as its official policy regarding student concussions and head injury.

1. Using the format approved by the WVSSAC Board of Directors, member schools shall provide information to all appropriate school administrators, coaches, interscholastic athletes and their parents or guardians describing the nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including the risks of continuing to play or practice after a concussion or head injury.
2. Annually, all interscholastic athletes and their parents are required to sign and return a statement that they have read the information provided to them prior to the interscholastic athlete beginning practice or competition for that scholastic year. (See, WVSSAC, Sports Medicine tab, Sports Medicine Packet: Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physician's Certificate Form (Physical Exam Form), A Parent's Guide to Concussions (Information to parents), available on the WVSSAC website at <http://www.wvssac.oro>.)
3. Each head coach of member schools is required annually to complete a concussion and head injury recognition and return-to-play protocol course approved by the WVSSAC. (See, WVSSAC, Sports Medicine tab, Sports Medicine Packet: Coach's Course, available on the WVSSAC website at <http://www.wvssac.oro>.)
4. An interscholastic athlete suspected of a concussion or head injury by a licensed health care professional or by the head coach or athletic trainer shall be removed from play or practice and may not return-to-play or practice until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and receives written clearance to return-to-play and practice from the licensed health care professional. (See, WVSSAC, Sports Medicine tab, Sports Medicine Packet: available on the WVSSAC website at <http://www.wvssac.oro>.)
5. Any of the following who have appropriate training in the evaluation and management of head injuries shall be considered as the licensed health care professional enumerated in this rule:
 - Medical Doctor (MD)
 - Doctor of Osteopathy (DO)
 - Doctor of Chiropractic (DC)
 - Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP)
 - Physician Assistant (PA-C)
 - Registered Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC/R).
6. Member schools must submit the concussion report form to the WVSSAC within 30 days of an interscholastic athlete suffering or being suspected of suffering a concussion or head injury in a practice or game. (See, WVSSAC, Sports Medicine tab, Sports Medicine Packet, available on the WVSSAC website at <http://www.wvssac.oro>.)

IT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL PRINCIPALS, COACHES AND ATHLETIC TRAINERS TO BE KNOWLEDABLE OF AND TO STRICTLY ABIDE BY THE GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE WVSSAC.

(WVC §18-2-25a; §127-2-14. Concussion)

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Amended/Revised: