

JGFGA Concussion and Head Injuries

JGFGA

The Board of Education recognizes that concussions and head injuries are commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and other recreational activities. The board acknowledges the risk of catastrophic injuries or deaths are significant when a concussion or head injury is not properly evaluated and managed.

Any coach of intramural or interscholastic athletics employed by the District shall complete an initial training course, approved by the State Board of Education, regarding concussions and head injuries, prior to commencing the coaching assignment for the season. Each coach shall annually review current and relevant information regarding concussions and head injuries prior to the start of the coaching assignment. This annual review is not required in any year the coach is completing a refresher course.

The District will also utilize protocols developed by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention and other pertinent information and forms to inform and educate coaches, youth athletes and their parents and/or guardians of the nature and risk of concussions or head injuries, including the dangers associated with continuing to play after a concussion or head injury.

Annually the district will distribute a head injury and concussion information sheet to all parents/guardians of student participants in competitive sport activities. The parent/guardian and student must return a signed acknowledgement indicating that they have reviewed and understand the information provided before the student participates in any covered activity. This acknowledgement form must be returned and be on file with the district in order for the student to be allowed to practice or compete in the sports activity.

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All coaches will complete training pertaining to the district's procedures.

The coach of any intramural or interscholastic athletics shall immediately remove any student athlete participating in intramural or interscholastic athletics who (1) is observed to exhibit signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the head or body during a practice, game or competition, (2) is diagnosed with a concussion, or (3) is otherwise suspected of having sustained a concussion or head injury because such student athlete is observed to exhibit signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion regardless of when such concussion or head injury may have occurred.

The coach shall not permit such student athlete to participate in any supervised team activities involving physical exertion, including, but not limited to, practices, games or competitions, until such student athlete receives written clearance to participate in such supervised team activities involving physical exertion from a health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions. For the purposes of this policy, "health care provider" means a person licensed by the state board of healing arts to practice medicine and surgery.

Following medical clearance, the coach shall not permit such student athlete to participate in any full, unrestricted supervised team activities without limitations on contact or physical exertion, including, but not limited to, practices, games or competitions, until such student athlete (1) no longer exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion at rest or with exertion, and (2) receives written clearance to participate in such full,

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unrestricted supervised team activities from a health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.

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KASB Recommendation – 2/14; 4/15