

POLICY

Somers Point Board of Education

Section: Program

2431.4. PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF SPORTS-RELATED CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES

Date Created: November, 2010

Date Edited: November, 2012

2431.4- PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF SPORTS-RELATED CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES

2431.4. PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF SPORTS-RELATED CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES

A concussion is a traumatic brain injury caused by a direct or indirect blow to the head or body. In order to ensure the safety of pupils that participate in interscholastic athletics, it is imperative that student-athletes, coaches, and parents are educated about the nature and treatment of sports-related concussions and other head injuries. Allowing a student-athlete to return to play before recovering from a concussion increases the chance of a more serious brain injury.

Every school district that participates in interscholastic athletics is required to adopt a policy concerning the prevention and treatment of sports-related concussions and other head injuries among student-athletes in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.1 et seq. For the purpose of this Policy, "interscholastic athletics" shall be Kindergarten through twelfth grade school-sponsored athletic programs where teams or individuals compete against teams or individuals from other schools or school districts.

The school district will adopt an Interscholastic Athletic Head Injury Training Program to be completed by the team or school physician, licensed athletic trainer(s) involved in the interscholastic athletic program, all staff members that coach an interscholastic sport, designated school nurses, and other appropriate school district personnel as designated by the Superintendent. This Training Program shall be in accordance with guidance provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.2.

The Principal or designee shall distribute the New Jersey Department of Education Concussion and Head Injury Fact Sheet and Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement Form to every student-athlete who participates in interscholastic sports. The Principal or designee shall obtain a signed acknowledgement of the receipt of the Fact Sheet by the student-athlete's parent and keep on file for future reference.

Prevention of a sports-related concussion and head injuries is an important component of the school district's program. The school district may require pre-season baseline testing of all student-athletes before the student-athlete begins participation in an interscholastic athletic program.

Any student-athlete who exhibits the signs or symptoms of a sports-related concussion or other head injury during practice or competition shall be immediately removed from play and may not return to play that day. Emergency medical assistance shall be contacted when symptoms

get worse, loss of consciousness, direct neck pain associated with the injury, or any other sign the supervising school staff member determines emergency medical attention is needed. If available when the student-athlete is exhibiting signs or symptoms, the student-athlete will be evaluated by the school or team physician. The Principal or designee shall contact the student-athlete's parent and inform the parent of the suspected sports-related concussion or other head injury.

Possible signs of a concussion can be observed by any school staff member or the school or team physician. Any possible symptoms of a concussion can be reported by the student-athlete to: coaches; licensed athletic trainer; school or team physician; school nurse; and/or parent. The Principal or designee shall provide the student-athlete with Board of Education approved suggestions for management/medical checklist to provide to their parent and physician or other licensed healthcare professional trained in the evaluation and management of sports-related concussions and other head injuries.

A student-athlete who participates in interscholastic athletics and who sustains or is suspected of sustaining a concussion or other head injury shall be required to have a medical examination conducted by their physician or licensed health care provider. The student-athlete's physician or licensed health care provider shall be trained in the evaluation and management of concussion to determine the presence or absence of a sports-related concussion or head injury.

The student-athlete's physician or licensed health care provider must provide to the school district a written medical release/clearance for the student-athlete indicating when the student-athlete is able to return to the activity. The medical release/clearance must indicate the student-athlete is asymptomatic at rest and either may return to the interscholastic athletic activity because the injury was not a concussion or other head injury or may begin the district's graduated return to competition and practice protocol outlined in Regulation 2431.4. A medical release/clearance not in compliance with this Policy will not be accepted. The medical release/clearance must be reviewed and approved by the school or team physician.

The school district shall provide a copy of this Policy and Regulation 2431.4 to all youth sports team organizations that operate on school grounds. In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.5, the school district shall not be liable for the injury or death of a person due to the action or inaction of persons employed by, or under contract with, a youth sports team organization that operates on school grounds, if the youth sports team organization provides the school district proof of an insurance policy in the amount of not less than \$50,000 per person, per occurrence insuring the youth sports team organization against liability for any bodily injury suffered by a person and a statement of compliance with the school district's Policy and Regulation 2431.4 - Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries.

For the purposes of this Policy a "youth sports team organization" means one or more sports teams organized pursuant to a nonprofit or similar charter or which are member teams in a league organized by or affiliated with a county or municipal recreation department.

This Policy and Regulation shall be reviewed and approved by the school physician and shall be reviewed annually, and updated as necessary, to ensure it reflects the most current information available on the prevention, risk, and treatment of sports-related concussion and other head injuries.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.1; 18A:40-41.2; 18A:40-41.3; 18A:40-41.4;
18A:40-41.5

Adopted: November 16, 2011

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REGULATION

Somers Point
School District

Section: Program

2431.1. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR ATHLETIC PRACTICES AND
COMPETITIONS

Date Created: November, 2011

Date Edited: December, 2011

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COMPETITIONS2431.1. - EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR ATHLETIC PRACTICES AND COMPETITIONS(M)

A. Definitions

1. "Athletic competition" and "athletic activities" mean all practice sessions and competitive contests, games, events, and exhibitions with individual pupils or teams of one or more schools of this district or of other districts and include cheerleading.
2. "Health personnel" means the school nurse, the school medical inspector, the designated team doctor, a licensed physician, and members of the first aid squad or ambulance team.
3. "Parent" means the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) having legal custody and control of a pupil.
4. "Pupil" means a pupil enrolled in this district and a pupil enrolled in any district who is present in this district for the purpose of participating in a program of athletic competition sponsored by the Board of Education.

B. Precautions

1. All athletic coaches, including assistant coaches, will be trained in first aid and in the identification of injured and disabled pupil athletes.
2. Athletic coaches are responsible at all times for the supervision of pupils to whom they have been assigned. Pupils shall not be left unattended at any time.
3. Pupils who participate in athletic competition shall be trained in proper athletic procedures, in the proper use of athletic equipment, and in the proper use of protective equipment and clothing.
4. Pupil athletes shall be required to report promptly to the athletic coach any injury or disability occurring to the pupil himself/herself or to another pupil.

5. First aid supplies and equipment shall be readily available at all athletic activities and shall be maintained in proper condition.
6. First aid and emergency medical procedures will utilize universal precautions in handling blood and body fluids as indicated in Policy and Regulation No. 7420 and Regulation No. 7420.1.

C. Emergency Procedures

The following procedures shall be implemented whenever a pupil athlete is injured or disabled in the course of an athletic practice or competition sponsored by this district.

1. The athletic coach shall immediately notify the health personnel present at the activity and the health personnel shall assume responsibility for the emergency treatment of the pupil.
2. If no health personnel are present, or if none can be immediately summoned to the pupil's aid, the athletic coach shall administer such first aid as may be necessary.
3. If the pupil's injury or disability requires more than routine first aid, the athletic coach shall:
 - a. Summon an ambulance by calling 911, or
 - b. Arrange for the pupil's transportation to the nearest hospital or the office of the school medical inspector.
4. The athletic coach or his/her designee shall promptly notify the Building Principal, the Superintendent, and the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the pupil's injury or disability and the condition and location of the pupil.
5. An injured or disabled pupil who has been transported away from school premises must be accompanied by the athletic coach, a member of the athletic department, a health professional, or other responsible adult known to the athletic coach.
6. These procedures shall be followed when the injured or disabled pupil is a member of a visiting team or district, and every effort shall be made to cooperate with the staff of the district in which the pupil is enrolled.

D. Reports

1. The athletic coach shall complete and file a report of every injury or disability that occurs to a pupil in the course of his/her participation in the athletic program

of this district, regardless of the severity of the injury or disability. The report shall include:

- a. The date of the incident,
 - b. The name, age, grade level, and gender of each injured or disabled pupil,
 - c. The district in which the pupil is enrolled,
 - d. The name and district of each pupil involved in the incident,
 - e. A narrative account of the incident,
 - f. A detailed description of the injury or disability,
 - g. The treatment given on school premises and the names of the health personnel, if any, who treated the pupil,
 - h. The place, if any, to which the pupil was taken and the persons who accompanied the pupil, and
 - i. A memorandum of the notice given to the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
2. Copies of the report shall be filed with the school nurse and the Building Principal within 48 hours of the incident.
 3. The Building Principal shall report the incident to the Superintendent, who shall report to the Board.
 4. A copy of each report of an incident of pupil injury or disability that occurs in the course of athletic activities shall be maintained by the athletic director, who shall analyze reports for patterns that indicate a need for revision of the district's safety and/or athletics program. The athletic director shall report the findings of his/her analysis to the Superintendent at the close of each sport season.
 5. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each injured or disabled pupil will be given assistance in the completion and filing of insurance claim forms.

E. Readmission to Athletic Activities

A pupil injured or disabled in the course of an athletic activity will be permitted to participate in athletic competition only on the written permission of the school medical inspector or designated team doctor, who must first examine the pupil to determine his/her fitness to participate in athletics. Written notice of that determination, signed by the school medical inspector or designated team doctor as appropriate, shall be given to the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

Adopted: August 18, 2011

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