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**MANAGEMENT OF CONCUSSIONS AND OTHER HEAD INJURIES**

The Board recognizes that concussions and other head injuries are potentially serious and may result in significant brain damage and/or death if not recognized and managed properly. The Board adopts this policy to promote the safety of students participating in school-sponsored extracurricular activities.

**TRAINING**

All staff must undergo annual training in the identification and management of concussive and other head injuries prior to assuming their coaching responsibilities. The training must be consistent with such protocols as may be identified or developed by the Maine Department of Education (DOE) and include instruction in the use of such forms as the DOE may develop or require.

**STUDENT AND PARENT INFORMATION**

Annually, at the beginning of the year, all parents of K-12 students who will be participating in school activities will be provided information regarding:

1. The risk of concussion and other head injuries and the dangers associated with continuing to participate when a concussion or other head injury is suspected.
2. The signs and symptoms of concussion and other head injuries; and
3. The school unit’s protocol for 1) Removal from the activity when a student is suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury, 2)evaluation and 3) return to participation in the activity(“return to play”)

The parent(s) must sign a statement acknowledging that they have received and read the information before the student will be allowed to participate in any school sponsored activity.

**MANAGEMENT OF CONCUSSIVE AND OTHER HEAD INJURIES**

It is the responsibility of the coach or advisor of the activity to act in accordance with this policy when the coach or advisor recognizes that a student maybe be exhibiting signs, symptoms and behaviors associated with a concussion or other head injury.

Any student suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury during a school-sponsored activity including but not limited to competition, practice or scrimmage, must be removed from the activity immediately. The student and his/her parent(s) will be informed of the need for evaluation for brain injury before the student will be allowed to return to activity.

No student will be permitted to return to the activity or to participate in any other school-sponsored activity on the day of the suspected concussion.

Any student who is suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury shall be prohibited from further participation in school-sponsored activities until he/she has been evaluated and received written medical clearance to do so from a licensed health care provider who is qualified and trained in concussion management.

Coaches and other school personnel shall comply with the student’s health care provider’s recommendations in regard to a gradual return to play. No student will be permitted to return to full participation until cleared to do so. More than one evaluation by the student’s health care provider may be necessary before the student is cleared for full participation.

If at any time during the return to play signs or symptoms of a concussion are observed, the student must be removed from participation and referred to his/her health care provider for re-evaluation.

**COGNITIVE CONSIDERATIONS**

School personnel should be alert to cognitive and academic issues that may be experienced by students who have suffered a concussion or head injury, including but not limited to difficulty with concentration, organization, long-and-short term memory and sensitivity to bright lights and sounds, and accommodate a gradual return to full participation as appropriate, based on the recommendations of the student’s health care provider and appropriate designated school personnel.

**CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT TEAM**

The Superintendent will appoint a concussion management team including a school administrator to be responsible, under the administrative supervision of the Superintendent, to make recommendations related to implementations of this policy. The concussion management team will include the Athletic Director and school nurses and may include one or more principals or assistant principals, the school physician, and such other school personnel or consultants the Superintendent deems appropriate.