

Chicago Public Schools Policy Manual

Title: CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT POLICY

Section: 704.9

Board Report: 11-0727-PO1

Date Adopted: July 27, 2011

Policy:

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Board adopt a new Concussion Management Policy.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to safeguard student athletes by (1) educating student athletes, school personnel and parents/guardians about concussions, (2) requiring that a student athlete be removed from play when a concussion is suspected and requiring a licensed health care professional to provide clearance for the student athlete to return to play or practice, and (3) implementing the concussion management requirements specified by the Illinois High School Association.

POLICY TEXT:

I. Applicability. This policy applies to athletic play occurring in CPS-sponsored sports programs provided by elementary, middle and high schools regardless whether the sports program is intramural, interscholastic, afterschool or provided during the summer (e.g. summer sports camp). This policy applies regardless of whether the sports activity or program is offered by or through a Board consultant, vendor or partner.

II. Concussion Signs and Symptoms. A concussion is a traumatic brain injury that interferes with normal brain function. A student athlete does not have to lose consciousness to have suffered a concussion. Signs and symptoms of a concussion include the following:

Signs Observed	Symptoms Reported
Appears dazed or stunned	Headache or "pressure in head"
Appears confused	Nausea
Forgets sports plays	Balance problems or dizziness
Is unsure of game, score, opponent	Sensitivity to light or noise
Moves clumsily	Double or fuzzy vision
Answers questions slowly	Feeling sluggish or slowed down
Loses consciousness (even briefly)	Feeling foggy or groggy
Shows behavior or personality changes	Does not "feel right"
Can't recall events prior to hit or fall	Concentration or memory problems
Can't recall events after hit or fall	Confusion

III. Removal and Return to Play. Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the game or practice and shall not return to play until cleared in writing by a licensed health care professional. If a health care professional is not immediately available at the athletic event or practice and an injured student athlete has any of the described signs, symptoms or behaviors of a concussion, s/he shall be promptly taken to a facility for appropriate medical evaluation and care.

IV. Licensed Health Care Professional. For purposes of this policy, licensed health care professional means physicians licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois and certified athletic trainers.

V. Documentation. All cases of suspected concussions must be promptly entered into the CPS incident reporting system. Further, schools shall comply with the player record eligibility and return to play documentation requirements and procedures specified by the Office of Sports Administration.

VI. Concussion Fact Sheet. Beginning August 1, 2011, the parent/guardian of each student athlete and the student athlete shall receive annually a concussion policy fact sheet and they shall submit written verification(s) that they have read the information. A student athlete may not participate in practice or competition prior to the school's receipt of this written verification.

VII. Coaches Training. Coaches must complete a concussion awareness training program prior to the beginning of each sport season in accordance with the requirements specified by the Director of Sports Administration.

VIII. Guidelines. The Chief Executive Officer or designee is authorized to issue Guidelines for the effective implementation of the requirements of this Policy.

IX. Compliance. Failure to abide by this Policy or Guidelines will subject employees to discipline up to and including dismissal in accordance with the Board's Employee Discipline and Due Process Policy and, as applicable, the Chicago Public High Schools Athletic Association Bylaws.

Amends/Rescinds:

Cross References:

Legal References:

Municipal Code of Chicago Chapter 7-22; 105 ILCS 5/34-18.45, Illinois High School Association concussion management protocols and return to play policy.