

The board recognizes that concussions and other head injuries may be serious and potentially life threatening and that such injuries may result in serious consequences later in life if managed improperly. The board is committed to practices that reduce the potential for short-term or long-term effects from such injuries. In support of this commitment, the board directs school employees to comply with the concussion safety ~~rules requirements~~ for interscholastic athletic competition ~~adopted by the State Board of Education as required established~~ by G.S. 115C-407.5712(23) ~~and initially established as amended~~ in the Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act of 2011, ~~and to implement and follow all concussion safety requirements set forth in State Board of Education rules and policies~~. The superintendent or designee shall develop plans consistent with state requirements and shall implement and monitor compliance with this policy. The superintendent is authorized to investigate the use of baseline testing for student-athletes and require that student-athletes undergo such testing prior to their participation in any interscholastic athletic competition.

A. DEFINITION OF CONCUSSION

A concussion is a traumatic brain injury caused by a direct or indirect impact to the head that results in disruption of normal brain function, which may or may not result in a loss of consciousness.

B. CONCUSSION EDUCATION VIDEO FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETES

~~Per North Carolina High School Athletic Association rules, a~~All high school student-athletes and parents of high school student-athletes must view the CrashCourse concussion education video prior to each sport season.

C. SCHOOL HEAD INJURY INFORMATION SHEET

Each year, all coaches, school nurses, athletic directors, first responders, volunteers, student-athletes, and parents of student-athletes must be provided with a concussion and head injury information sheet that meets the requirements of the State Board. Before any student, school employee, volunteer, or first responder will be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletic activities, including tryouts, practices, or competitions, he or she must sign the head injury information sheet and return it to the coach. Parents also must sign the sheet and return it to the coach before their children may participate in any interscholastic athletic activity. The principal of each school shall ensure that a complete and accurate record of the returned signed sheets is maintained in accordance with law and State Board policy.

D. REMOVAL FROM AND RETURN TO PLAY

Any student-athlete who is exhibiting signs or symptoms consistent with a concussion must be removed from athletic activity immediately. Further, the student-athlete must not be allowed to return to play or practice that day or on any subsequent day until he or she has

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The superintendent ~~annual~~ report to the board on compliance with laws and policies related to student wellness shall include a report on compliance with laws and policies related to concussions and head injuries. (See ~~Section~~ ~~subsection~~ GF.4 of policy 3530, Student Wellness.)

Legal References: G.S. 90 art. 34; 115C-12(23), -407.55, ~~-407.57~~, ~~-407.58~~, ~~-407.70~~; S.L. 2011-147; ~~Article 34 Chapter 90~~; 16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0205, .0206; State Board of Education Policies ATHL-000, ATHL-003, SHLT-001; N.C. High School Athletic Association Handbook, available at <https://www.nchsaa.org/handbook>

Other Resources: Matthew Gfeller Sport-Related TBI Research Center at UNC website, <https://gfellerwallerlaw.unc.edu/http://tbicenter.unc.edu>; *Report to the North Carolina General Assembly: Study of Sports Injuries at Middle School and High School Levels*, N.C. Department of Public Instruction (2011), available at <https://webservices.ncleg.gov/ViewDocSiteFile/16567>

Adopted: 08/15/2011

Revised: 08/22/2016, 07/20/2020

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