HEAD INJURIES AND BRAIN CONCUSSIONS

Youth head injuries and brain concussions have been a growing concern by the DPI and WIAA. Therefore, state legislation has recently been enacted in 2012 to provide direction in this area. The school district shall comply with the new law through this policy, and the Administrative Council has developed more specific guidelines.

I. This policy directs the distribution of guidelines and other information to educate coaches and athletes and their parents or guardians about the risk of concussion and head injury in youth athletic activities prior to the start of all athletic related activities. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI), in consultation with the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), will assist in the provision and production of these materials.

II. Student athletes are prohibited from participating in an athletic activity until he or she has returned a signed agreement by the athlete and his or her parent or guardian. Coaches are also required to file a signed agreement with the athletic director and/or appropriate building administrator prior to conducting athletic activities.

III. This Policy specifies that any athletic coach, official involved in a youth athletic activity, or health care provider must remove a student from the activity if the coach, official, or health care provider determines that the student exhibits signs, symptoms, or behavior consistent with a concussion or head injury, or if the coach, official, or health care provider otherwise suspects the person has sustained a concussion or head injury.

IV. Student who has been removed from an athletic activity under this policy may not participate in an athletic activity until he or she is evaluated by a health care provider and receives a written clearance to participate in the activity from the health care provider.

V. The policy provides that any athletic coach, volunteer coach, or official involved an athletic activity who fails to remove a student suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in an athletic activity is immune from civil liability for any injury resulting from that omission unless it constitutes gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. If a health care provider who is a volunteer authorizes a person to return to play in an athletic activity, he or she is immune from civil liability, for an injury resulting from that act unless the act constitutes gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.
Furthermore, this policy specifies that its provisions do not create any liability for, or a cause of action against, any person.

Legal references:

Cross references:

Adopted: 8/13/12
Revised: 3/16/15

The Port Washington-Saukville School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Special Services, Port Washington-Saukville School District, 100 W. Monroe Street, Port Washington, WI 53074 - Duane.Woelfel@pwssd.k12.wi.us