

**TALBOT COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MD 21601**

**POLICY CODE: 10.34-AR
REVIEWED: 06/19/13
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Management of Sports Related Concussions

I. Concussion & Risk Management Training for interscholastic coaches and Physical Education (PE) teachers

- A. All Talbot County Public School (TCPS) interscholastic coaches will complete the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) online concussion course annually.
- B. A certificate of completion must be submitted annually to the Athletic Director, and County Athletic Director as a condition of employment.
- C. PE teachers, PreK thru 12th grade, will be required to provide a certificate of completion of concussion education training annually to the PE Specialist.

II. Concussion & Risk Management Training for Student Athletes, Parents/Guardians and designated school personnel

- A. Prior to the start of each sports season concussion information fact sheets will be available on our online registration platform to student athletes, parents/guardians and provided in writing to designated school staff describing the nature and risk of a concussion or head injury, criteria for removal from and return to play, the risk for not reporting injury, and continuing to play and appropriate academic accommodations for students with diagnosed concussions.
- B. Every student athlete and at least one parent/guardian must verify in writing that they have received information on concussions by signing a statement acknowledging receipt of the information before a student participates in an authorized interscholastic athletic activity. (See online registration platform)

III. Concussion & Risk Management for all Youth Programs using TCPS facilities/athletic fields

- A. Youth sports programs seeking to use school facilities/athletic fields must verify distribution of concussion information to coaches, students and parents/guardians by submitting to the Principal or School Manager the Youth Sports Program Use of School Property Concussion Awareness Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement Statement.
- B. TCPS is not required to provide the actual concussion training materials for Youth Sports Concussion Training. Materials are available on the CDC website <http://www.cdc.gov> (Figure 10)

IV. Post concussion removal and return to play

- A. A student-athlete who exhibits signs or symptoms consistent with a concussion will be immediately removed from play. If a Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) or qualified healthcare professional is present, they will evaluate the athlete to determine whether or not an apparent concussion has occurred. If a qualified healthcare professional (including ATC) is not present, the injury will be treated as a concussion and the athlete will not be returned to the practice/or game.
- B. TCPS will follow MPSSAA guidelines regarding concussion and recommend utilization of the Medical Clearance for Student Athletes Suspected Head Injury form available through the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).
- C. The student athlete may not return to play until the student receives written clearance provided by a licensed healthcare provider (LHCP) defined by COMAR 13A.06.08.06:
 - 1. A licensed physician trained in the evaluation and management of concussions;
 - 2. A licensed physician's assistant trained in the evaluation and management of concussions in collaboration with the physician assistant's supervising physician or alternate supervising physician within the scope of the physician assistant's Delegation Agreement approved by the Board of Physicians;
 - 3. A licensed nurse practitioner trained in the evaluation and management of concussions;
 - 4. A licensed psychologist with training in neuropsychology and in the evaluation and management of concussions; or
 - 5. A licensed athletic trainer trained in the evaluation and management of concussions, in collaboration with the athletic trainer's supervising physician or alternate supervising physician and within the scope of the Evaluation and Treatment protocol approved by the Board of Physicians.
- D. Each school shall use the 6-step gradual return to play protocols provided by the MSDE under direction of the ATC or qualified healthcare provider after receiving the written clearance from an LHCP.
- E. To assist student athletes, parents, and school personnel, to deal with concussion events, the TCPS system shall provide to all involved persons:
 - 1. Written notification of possible head injury;
 - 2. Medical clearance forms for gradual return to sports participation following concussion;
 - 3. Gradual return to play protocols.

V. Concussion Safety Regulation

- A. Student athletes who have sustained a concussion will receive standard academic accommodations as recommended by the assessing health care provider (physician, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, neuropsychologist). These accommodations may require implementation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- B. If symptoms of the documented head injury impact the learning environment, as determined by the health care provider, school staff must be notified immediately. This would include contacting the school administrator, school nurse, Section 504 Coordinator, school counselor, teacher's, Athletic Director, Athletic Trainer, and appropriate coaching staff (refer to MSDE Report of the Traumatic Brain Injury/Sports-Related Task Force Appendix J/Case Management and Care Coordination-Roles and Responsibilities).