

SUBJECT: CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT POLICY

In the Harrison Central School District, students participate in interscholastic sports, intramural sports and physical education classes. Although the Board of Education takes reasonable care to prevent student injuries, the Board of Education recognizes that concussions and head injuries are among the most commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in interscholastic athletic activity, physical education class, extracurricular or school-sponsored activity. Therefore, the Harrison Central School District adopts the following policy to assist in the proper evaluation and management of head injuries.

Concussion is a mild traumatic brain injury. Concussion occurs when normal brain functioning is disrupted by a blow or jolt to the head or neck area. Recovery from concussion will vary. Avoiding re-injury and over-exertion until fully recovered are the cornerstones of proper concussion management.

The Harrison Central School District has established a Concussion Management Team (CMT). The CMT will consist of the Athletic Director, school nurse, the district medical director, a coach of an interscholastic team, an athletic trainer or such other appropriate personnel as designated by the School District. The District's CMT will oversee the implementation of the Concussion Management and Awareness Act in the School District, including but not limited to: coordination of mandatory biennial training relating to concussions for all coaches, physical education teachers, nurses and athletic trainers that work with, and provide instruction to, students engaged in school sponsored athletic activities. Training will include, but not be limited to the definition of a concussion, signs and symptoms of concussions and how they may occur, post concussion and second impact syndromes, practices regarding prevention, guidelines for return to activity, school protocols, and available area resources for concussion management and treatment. The CMT shall establish and implement a program which provides information on concussions to parents and guardians throughout each school year.

Any student believed to have sustained a concussion or who is demonstrating signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion, while participating in a school sponsored class, extracurricular activity, or interscholastic athletic activity shall be immediately removed from the game or activity and be evaluated as soon as possible by an a certified health care professional. If there is any doubt whether a student has sustained a head injury, the injury will be treated as a concussion until proven otherwise. The school athletic trainer or school nurse, depending on the situation, will take steps to notify the student's parents or guardians and recommend appropriate monitoring to parents or guardians. The CMT's designee will act as a liaison for any student returning to school and/or athletic activity following a concussion. If a student sustains a concussion at a time other than when engaged in a school sponsored activity, the District expects that the student's parent/guardian will report the condition to the school nurse so that the Harrison Central School District can support proper management of the condition.

Students

No student shall return to athletic activity while experiencing symptoms consistent with those of a head injury. No student shall resume athletic activity until he/she has been symptom free for not less than twenty-four (24) hours. The student shall not return to school-sponsored or interscholastic athletic activity until successful completion of the Return to Play Protocol is verified by the athletic trainer and approved by the district medical director. The district shall develop a Return to Play Protocol which shall be a part of the regulation associated with this policy. The district medical director will make the final decision on return to school and/or interscholastic athletic activity, including physical education class and after-school sports. Any student who continues to have signs or symptoms upon return to activity must be immediately removed from play and reevaluated by his/her health care provider. Once the student is symptom free for twenty-four (24) hours thereafter, the student will be required to present a physician's authorization stating that he/she has been cleared to resume activities. The district medical director shall review the new documentation provided by the student in order to determine if it is safe for the student to return to his/her regular school activities. The district medical director will make the final decision on return to school and/or interscholastic activity, including physical education class and after-school sports.

Depending on the severity of the head injury and the individual circumstances of the student, appropriate adjustments may be made to the student's participation in school (e.g., adjustment to schedule, academic assignments, etc.) in an effort to reduce the risk of re-injury and promote recovery. Parents and/or students are expected to accurately and promptly report injuries so that the student's health can be protected.

The Harrison Central School District shall make information available on its website regarding concussion and the guidelines for return to school and school activities once a concussion has been sustained by a student. The Harrison Central School District shall also include such information in any parent/guardian permission form or consent form required for a student's participation in interscholastic sports.

The CMT shall develop a protocol for concussion management for the School District. Such protocol shall be developed and implemented in accordance with applicable law and this policy.

Reference: N.Y. Education Law § 305

Resource Materials: *NYSPPHSAA Concussion Management Support Materials and Guidelines*
<http://www.nyspphsaa.org/safety/>

Adopted: 8/1/2012