

TURKEYFOOT VALLEY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT

ADOPTED: December 7, 2015

REVISED: October 15, 2018

123. CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT	
<p>1. <i>Purpose</i></p>	<p>The Board recognizes the importance of ensuring the safety of students participating in the district’s athletic programs. This policy has been developed to provide guidance for prevention, detection and treatment of concussions sustained by students while participating in an athletic activity.</p>
<p>2. <i>Authority</i></p>	<p>Amended Pennsylvania Senate Bill 200 signed by the Governor on November 9, 2011 establishes provisions specifically related to concussions and traumatic brain injuries of student athletes.</p>
<p>3. <i>Definitions</i> <i>24 P.S.</i> <i>Sec. 5322</i> <i>Pol. 123</i> <i>Pol.122</i></p> <p><i>Pol. 122</i></p> <p><i>Pol. 122, 123</i></p> <p><i>24 P.S.</i> <i>Sec. 5322</i></p>	<p>Athletic activity refers to all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interscholastic athletics. 2. An athletic contest or competition, other than interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated with the school, including cheerleading, club-sponsored sports activities and sports activities sponsored by school-affiliated organizations. 3. Noncompetitive cheerleading that is sponsored by or associated with the school. 4. Practices, interschool practices and scrimmages for all athletic activities. <p>Appropriate medical professional is defined as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A licensed physician who is trained in the evaluation and management of concussions or a licensed or certified health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and designated by such licensed physician.
<p>4. <i>Delegation of Responsibility</i> <i>24 P.S.</i> <i>Sec. 5323</i></p>	<p>Any student participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity and the student’s parent or guardian shall each school year, prior to participation by the student, sign and return to the coach of such activity an acknowledgement of receipt and review of a concussion and traumatic brain information sheet developed by the Department of Health and the Department of Education as posted on their Internet websites as required by law.</p>

<p>5. <i>Guidelines</i></p> <p><i>24 P.S.</i> <i>Sec. 5323</i></p> <p><i>24 P.S.</i> <i>Sec. 5323</i></p> <p><i>24 P.S.</i> <i>Sec. 5323</i></p>	<p><u>Removal From Play</u></p> <p>Any student who, as determined by a game official, coach from the student’s team, certified athletic trainer, licensed physician, licensed physical therapist or other official designated by the district, exhibits signs or symptoms of a concussion or traumatic brain injury while participating in an athletic activity shall be removed by the coach from participation at that time.</p> <p>Any athlete who is removed by his/her coach from an athletic activity shall be referred to an appropriate medical professional to be evaluated. If an appropriate medical professional is unavailable, the student shall be released to a parent/guardian and advised to seek medical attention. If neither is available, the athlete shall be dealt with as in any other medical emergency with police and EMT contacted and the student transported to a medical facility for evaluation and treatment. The removal may occur at any point during the event, practice, game or scrimmage as deemed appropriate by the coach for the safety of the athlete. The student need not have verbally reported the injury to the coach. The coach must report to the athletic director and the appropriate building principal the name of the injured student, date and time of the injury, a description of the injury and the actions that were taken.</p> <p><u>Return to Play</u></p> <p>No athlete with a suspected or confirmed concussion shall return to play and participate in an athletic activity until seen and cleared in writing by an appropriate medical professional. Telephone consultation is not appropriate for determination of return to play. Coaches or other district personnel shall not make decisions regarding these matters.</p> <p>Athletes who are not fully recovered from a concussion are significantly more vulnerable to a potentially catastrophic medical event if they sustain another concussion. Because of this and the pressure that may be imposed internally by the athlete or by the others to return to play, it is required that an appropriate medical professional clear the student athlete for returning to play.</p> <p><u>Required Annual Training Course</u></p> <p>Once each school year, all coaches shall complete the concussion management certification training course offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Federation of State High School Associations or another provider approved by the Department of Health. A coach shall not coach an athletic activity until the coach completes the training course required under this subsection. All coaches and volunteer coaches may also be required to attend district approved concussion training on an annual basis.</p>
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24 P.S.
Sec. 5323

Violation of Policy and Penalties

Any coach found in violation of the “removal from play” and “return to play” provisions of this policy shall be subject to the following penalties:

1. For a **first** violation, suspension from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season.
2. For a **second** violation, suspension from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season and for the next season.
3. For a **third** violation, permanent suspension from coaching any athletic activity.

References:

Safety in Youth Sports Act – 24 P.S. Sec.5321 et seq.

Board Policy – 122, 123