

CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Schodack Board of Education and the Schodack Central School District recognizes that concussions and head injuries are commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities and can have serious consequences if not managed carefully.

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

While district staff will exercise reasonable care to protect students, head injuries may still occur. Physical education teachers, coaches, nurses, and other appropriate staff will receive training to recognize the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion. Any student exhibiting those signs, symptoms, or behaviors while participating in a school sponsored class, recess, extracurricular activity, or intramural/interscholastic athletic activity shall be immediately removed from the game or activity and be evaluated as soon as possible by an appropriate health care professional. The athletic trainer, coach, school nurse, or other District employee in charge of or supervising the activity will notify the student's parents or guardians.

If a student sustains a concussion at a time other than when engaged in a school sponsored activity, the district requires the parent/legal guardian to report the condition to the appropriate school nurse so that the district can support the proper management of the condition.

In the event of any concussion, regardless of where it was sustained, the student shall not return to school or activity until he/she is symptom free for at least 24 hours, has been evaluated by and provides written authorization from an appropriate health care professional. Any student who continues to exhibit signs or symptoms upon return to activity must be removed from play and reevaluated by his/her health care provider.

In recognition of the importance of appropriately managing head injuries, the Board authorizes the creation of a Concussion Management Team (CMT). The CMT will be comprised of the Building Nurses, the Athletic Director, the Health and Safety Officer, Building Principals, and other appropriate personnel designated by the Superintendent. The CMT is charged with overseeing compliance with state training requirements, developing guidelines for use by coaches and physical education teachers and developing information for distribution to parents and students.

The Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate district staff, will develop regulations and protocols to guide the students return to activity.

Adoption date: April 19, 2018