

SUBJECT: CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT

The Board of Education of the Susquehanna Valley Central School District (“District”) recognizes that concussions and head injuries are injuries that occur in children and adolescents who participate in athletics and recreational activities. Therefore, the District adopts the following policy to support the proper recognition, evaluation, and management of head injuries.

A concussion is a mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI), which most commonly is caused by a blow or jolt to the head or body. Recovery from concussions varies, and avoiding injury or over-exertion until the student is fully recovered are the cornerstones of proper concussion management.

While district staff will exercise reasonable care to protect students, head injuries may still occur. Physical education teachers, coaches, nurses, athletic trainers and other appropriate staff will receive training to recognize the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion.

Any student exhibiting signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion while participating in a school-sponsored class, extracurricular activity, or interscholastic athletic activities will be immediately removed from that game or activity and be evaluated by an appropriate health care provider. The nurse/coach/athletic trainer/administrator/or supervising staff member will notify the student’s parents or guardians and recommend appropriate monitoring. Notification will also be made to appropriate school staff.

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

Once a student diagnosed with a concussion has been symptom free at rest for at least twenty-four (24) hours, an appropriate medical provider may choose to clear the student to begin the District’s graduated return to play/activities program. If the District has concerns or questions about the medical provider’s orders, the District Medical Director, with parental permission, may contact that provider to discuss and clarify those orders. Additionally, the District Medical Director has the final authority to clear students to participate in or return to extra-class athletic activities in accordance with Commissioner’s Regulations [8NYCRR 135.4(c)(7)(i)].

The Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate district staff, including the District Medical Director, will develop regulations and protocols to guide the return to activities. The protocols will cover all students returning to school after suffering a concussion regardless if the accident occurred outside of school or while participating in a school activity. This policy will be periodically reviewed.

Adopted: 5/22/13