STUDENTS

Student Concussions and Head Injuries

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement a program to manage concussions and head injuries suffered by students. The program shall:

1. Comply with the concussion protocols, policies, and by-laws of the Illinois High School Association, including its Protocol for NFHS Concussion Playing Rules and its Return to Play Policy. These require that:
   a. A student who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion in gym class, recess, a practice or a game shall be removed from participation or competition at that time.
   b. A student who has been removed from a physical activity for a possible concussion or head injury may not return to that activity or event unless cleared to do so by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois.
   c. If not cleared to return, a student may not play or practice until he or she has provided the school nurse with written clearance from a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer working in conjunction with a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois.

2. Inform student athletes and their parents/guardians about this policy in the Agreement to Participate or other written instrument that a student athlete and his or her parent/guardian must sign before the student is allowed to participate in a practice or interscholastic competition.

3. Provide coaches, physical education teachers, recess supervisors, student athletes and their parents/guardians with education materials regarding the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries, including risks inherent in continuing to play after a concussion or head injury.

4. Include a requirement for staff members to notify the parent/guardian of a student who exhibits symptoms consistent with that of a concussion.

APPROVED: 3/13/12