

Student Concussion and Head Injury Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to implement reasonable precautionary measures to protect students who show signs or symptoms of a concussion or head injury.

A student shall be suspected of suffering a concussion or head injury if any of the following symptoms are observed arising from possible blunt trauma, acceleration of force or deceleration of force.

- *Transient confusion, disorientation, or impaired consciousness;
- *Dysfunction of memory;
- *Loss of consciousness; or

Signs of other neurological or neuropsychological dysfunction, including:

- seizures;
- irritability;
- lethargy;
- vomiting;
- headache;
- dizziness;
- fatigue;

Staff has reason to believe above symptoms are manifested when the athlete or student:

- Increased forgetfulness or demonstrates short term memory difficulty.
- Exhibits difficulties with balance or coordination.
- Answers questions slowly or inaccurately.
- Exhibits balance problems or dizziness.
- Complains of double vision or changes in vision.
- Notices sensitivity to light or sound/noise.
- Feels sluggish or foggy.
- Has difficulty with concentration and short term memory.
- Demonstrates a vacant stare (befuddled facial expression)
- Exhibits delayed verbal and motor responses (slow to answer questions or follow instructions)
- Is confused or is unable to focus attention (easily distracted and unable to follow through with normal activities)
- Is disoriented (walling in the wrong direction; unaware of time, date and place)
- Has slurred or incoherent speech (making disjointed or incomprehensible statements)

- Exhibits emotions out of proportion to circumstances (distraught, crying for no apparent reason)
- Demonstrates memory deficits (exhibited by the athlete repeatedly asking the same question that has already been answered, or inability to memorize and recall a sequence)
- Has any period of loss of consciousness (paralytic coma, unresponsiveness to arousal)

Emergency Management and Referral: The following situations indicate a medical emergency and require emergency medical assistance. The student should be transported immediately to the nearest emergency department via emergency vehicle:

Any student with loss of consciousness or who is not stable (i.e., level of consciousness is worsening).

A student who exhibits any of the following symptoms.

- Deterioration of neurological function
- Decreasing level of consciousness
- Decrease or irregularity in respirations
- Any signs or symptoms of associated injuries of spine or skull fracture, or bleeding
- Seizure activity
- Loss of consciousness