

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF SPORTS-RELATED CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD
INJURIES (M)
2431.4 PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF SPORTS-RELATED CONCUSSIONS
AND HEAD INJURIES (M)

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A concussion is a traumatic brain injury caused by a ~~direct or indirect~~ blow or motion to the head or body that disrupts the normal functioning of the brain and can cause significant and sustained neuropsychological impairments including, but not limited to, problem solving, planning, memory, and behavioral problems. In order to ensure ~~the~~ safety, ~~of students that participate in interscholastic athletics including cheerleading,~~ it is imperative that students- participating in athletic competition, athletes, cheerleaders, coaches, and parents/guardians are educated about the nature and treatment of sports-related concussions and other head injuries. Allowing a student-~~athlete or cheerleader~~ to return to athletic competition to play before recovering from a concussion increases the chance of a more serious brain injury.

~~Every school district that participates in interscholastic athletics or cheerleading programs is required to adopt a policy concerning the prevention and treatment of sports-related concussions and other head injuries among student athletes and cheerleaders in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.1 et seq. For the purpose of this Policy, and Regulation 2431.4, programs of athletic competition “interscholastic athletics” shall include be Kindergarten through twelfth grade high school interscholastic - sponsored athletic programs, middle school interscholastic athletic programs where teams or squads play teams or squads individuals compete against teams or individuals from other schools or school districts, intramural athletic programs within a school or among schools in the district, and any cheerleading program or activity in the school district. For the purpose of this Policy, “cheerleading program” shall be Kindergarten through twelfth grade school-sponsored cheerleading programs.~~

The school district ~~will~~ shall adopt an athletic head injury safety training program. ~~The program Interscholastic Athletic and Cheerleading Head Injury Training Program to shall~~ be completed by the ~~team or school~~ physician, any individual who licensed athletic trainer(s) involved in the interscholastic athletic program, all persons that coaches in an athletic completion program, an athletic trainer involved in any athletic competition program, and the interscholastic sport or cheerleading program, including cheerleading, all school nurses, s, and other appropriate school district personnel as designated by the Superintendent. ~~The is t~~ Training pProgram shall be in accordance with guidance provided by the New Jersey Department of Education and the requirements of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.2.



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The school district shall annually distribute the NJDOE-developed educational fact sheet regarding sports-related concussions and other head injuries to all parents/guardians of students participating in any athletic competition or practice and shall obtain a signed acknowledgement of the receipt of the fact sheet by the student and their parent in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.2(c).

~~The Principal or designee shall distribute the New Jersey Department of Education Concussion and Head Injury Fact Sheet and Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement Form to every student athlete who participates in interscholastic sports and every cheerleader who participates in a cheerleading program. The Principal or designee shall obtain a signed acknowledgement of the receipt of the Fact Sheet by the student athlete's parent and keep on file for future reference.~~

~~Prevention of a sports related concussion and head injuries is an important component of the school district's program. The school district may require pre season baseline testing of all student athletes and cheerleaders before the student begins participation in an interscholastic athletic or cheerleading program.~~

~~Any student athlete or cheerleader who exhibits the signs or symptoms of a sports related concussion or other head injury during practice or competition shall be immediately removed from play and may not return to play that day. Emergency medical assistance shall be contacted when symptoms get worse, loss of consciousness, direct neck pain associated with the injury, or any other sign the supervising school staff member determines emergency medical attention is needed. If available when the student athlete or cheerleader is exhibiting signs or symptoms, the student will be evaluated by the school or team physician. The Principal or designee shall contact the student's parent and inform the parent of the suspected sports related concussion or other head injury.~~

~~Possible signs of a concussion can be observed by any school staff member or the school or team physician. Any possible symptoms of a concussion can be reported by the student athlete or cheerleader to: coaches; licensed athletic trainer; school or team physician; school nurse; and/or parent. The Principal or designee shall provide the student athlete or cheerleader with Board of Education approved suggestions for management/medical checklist to provide to their parent and physician or other licensed healthcare professional trained in the evaluation and management of sports related concussions and other head injuries.~~

~~A student athlete or cheerleader who participates in interscholastic an athletic s competition program and who sustains or is suspected of sustaining a concussion or other head injury shall be immediately removed from athletic competition or practice. A~~



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~~student removed from athletic competition or practice shall not participate in further athletic competition or practice until they are evaluated required to have a medical examination conducted by their a physician or other licensed health-care provider. The student's physician or licensed health care provider shall be trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and receives written clearance from a physician trained in the evaluation and management of concussions to return to athletic competition or practice; and the student returns to regular school activities and is no longer experiencing symptoms of the injury when conducting those activities in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.4.~~

~~to determine the presence or absence of a sports-related concussion or head injury.~~

~~The return of a student to athletic competition or practice shall also be in accordance with the graduated, six-step "Return to Play Progression" recommendations and any subsequent changes or other updates to these recommendations as developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Board shall revise this Policy and Regulation 2431.4 whenever the CDC changes or otherwise updates the "Return to Play Progression" recommendations.~~

~~The student's physician or licensed health care provider must provide to the school district a written medical release/clearance for the student indicating when the student is able to return to the activity. The medical release/clearance must indicate the student-athlete or cheerleader is asymptomatic at rest and either may return to the interscholastic athletic activity or cheerleading program because the injury was not a concussion or other head injury or may begin the district's graduated return to competition and practice protocol outlined in Regulation 2431.4.~~

~~A medical release/clearance not in compliance with this Policy will not be accepted. The medical release/clearance must be reviewed and approved by the school or team physician.~~

The school district shall provide a copy of this Policy and Regulation 2431.4 to all youth sports team organizations that operate on school grounds. In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.5, the school district shall not be liable for the injury or death of a person due to the action or inaction of persons employed by, or under contract with, a youth sports team organization that operates on school grounds, if the youth sports team organization provides the school district proof of an insurance policy in the amount of not less than \$50,000 per person, per occurrence insuring the youth sports team organization against liability for any bodily injury suffered by a person and a statement of compliance with ~~the school district's this~~ Policy and Regulation 2431.4. ~~Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries.~~



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Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.5 and f F For the purposes of this Policy a “youth sports team organization” means one or more sports teams organized pursuant to a nonprofit or similar charter or which are member teams in a league organized by or affiliated with a county or municipal recreation department.

This Policy and Regulation 2431.4 shall be reviewed and approved by the school physician and shall be reviewed annually; and updated as necessary; to ensure it reflects the most current information available on the prevention, risk, and treatment of sports-related concussions and other head injuries in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.3.

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N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.1; 18A:40-41.2; 18A:40-41.3;
18A:40-41.4; 18A:40-41.5

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Second Reading:

