

## Students

### Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries

The Superintendent or designee shall develop and implement a program to manage concussions and head injuries suffered by student athletes. 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 specifically require that:
  - a. A student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion in a practice or game shall be removed from participation or competition at that time.
  - b. A student athlete who has been removed from an interscholastic contest for a possible concussion or head injury may not return to that contest unless cleared to do so by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer.
  - c. If not cleared to return to that contest, a student athlete may not return to play or practice until the student athlete has provided his or her school 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 and student athletes and their parents/guardians with educational materials from the Illinois High School Association regarding the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries, including the 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.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.53.

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety), 7:300 (Extracurricular Athletics)

ADOPTED:

**Comment [AKL1]:** Each school board must adopt a policy regarding student athlete concussions and head injuries that is in compliance with the protocols, policies, and by-laws of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) (105 ILCS 5/10-20.53, added by P.A. 97-204).

Information about the board's concussion and head injury policy must be part of any agreement, contract, code, or other written instrument that a student athlete and his or her parent/guardian must sign before the student is permitted to participate in a practice or interscholastic competition.

Finally, the new legislation requires school districts to provide coaches and student athletes and their parents/guardians with educational materials from IHSA regarding the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries, including the risks inherent in continuing to play after a concussion or head injury.

For a further discussion of the definition of "student athlete" see the Update Memo.

Educational materials are available for coaches, parents, students, the school, and health providers on the IHSA website at [www.ihsa.org/Resources/SportsMedicine/ConcussionManagement.aspx](http://www.ihsa.org/Resources/SportsMedicine/ConcussionManagement.aspx)

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