

Board Policy**Management of Sports Related Concussions**

Medical management of sports-related concussion is evolving. In recent years, there has been a significant amount of research into sports-related concussion in high school athletes. Franklin Local School District has established this protocol to provide education about concussion for athletic department staff and other school personnel. This protocol outlines procedures for staff to follow in managing head injuries, and outlines school policy as it pertains to return to play issues after concussion.

Franklin Local School District seeks to provide a safe return to activity for all athletes after injury, particularly after a concussion. In order to effectively and consistently manage these injuries, procedures have been developed to aid in insuring that concussed athletes are identified, treated and referred appropriately, receive appropriate follow-up medical care during the school day, including academic assistance, and are fully recovered prior to returning to activity. Also, students must submit a form signed by the student's parent or guardian stating that the family has received a concussion and head injury information sheet required by R.C. 3707.52. A completed form must be submitted each school year for each sport in which the student practices or competes. Students may not practice or compete until this form is submitted.

This policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis, by the FLSD staff. Any changes or modifications will be reviewed and given to athletic department staff and appropriate school personnel in writing.

All athletic department staff will attend a yearly in-service meeting in which procedures for managing sports-related concussion are discussed. Additionally, no individual shall be permitted to coach interscholastic athletics unless that individual holds a pupil-activity program permit issued under R.C. 3319.303. Similarly, no individual shall be permitted to referee interscholastic athletics unless the individual holds a pupil-activity program permit issued under R.C. 3319.303 or otherwise completes a training program recognized under R.C. 3313.539(C)(1).

Guidelines for Diagnosis and Treatment of Concussions

Recognition of concussion

A. Common signs and symptoms of sports-related concussion

1. Signs (observed by others):

- Athlete appears dazed or stunned
- Confusion (about assignment, plays, etc.)
- Forgets plays
- Unsure about game, score, opponent
- Moves clumsily (altered coordination)
- Balance problems
- Personality change
- Responds slowly to questions
- Forgets events prior to hit
- Forgets events after the hit
- Loss of consciousness (any duration)

2. Symptoms (reported by athlete):

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Nausea or vomiting
- Double vision, blurry vision
- Sensitive to light or noise
- Feels sluggish
- Feels “foggy”
- Problems concentrating
- Problems remembering

3. These signs and symptoms are indicative of probable concussion. Other causes for symptoms should also be considered.

B. Cognitive impairment (altered or diminished cognitive function)

1. General cognitive status can be determined by simple sideline cognitive testing.

- a. Board approved medical personnel may utilize SCAT (Sports Concussion Assessment Tool), SAC, sideline ImPACT, or other standard tool for sideline cognitive testing.

- b. Coaches should utilize the basic UPMC cognitive testing form.

II. ImPACT neuropsychological testing requirements

1. ImPACT (Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing) is a research-based software tool utilized to evaluate recovery after concussion.

It was developed at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC). ImPACT evaluates multiple aspects of neurocognitive function, including memory, attention, brain processing speed, reaction time, and post-concussion symptoms.

- a. Neuropsychological testing is utilized to help determine recovery after concussion.

2. All athletes at Philo High School are required to take a baseline ImPACT test prior to participation in sports at PHS (usually freshman year).

- a. All athletes will view a video presentation entitled: “Heads Up: Concussion in High School Sports”, prior to taking the baseline test.

3. Athletes in collision and contact sports (as defined by the American Academy of Pediatrics classifications) are required to take a “new” baseline test prior to participation their junior year (list collision/contact sports at your school).

III. Management and Referral Guidelines for All Staff

A. Suggested Guidelines for Management of Sports-Related Concussion

1. Any athlete with a witnessed loss of consciousness (LOC) of any duration should be spine boarded and transported immediately to nearest emergency department via emergency vehicle.
2. Any athlete who has symptoms of a concussion, and who is not stable (i.e., condition is changing or deteriorating), is to be transported immediately to the nearest emergency department via emergency vehicle.
3. An athlete who exhibits any of the following symptoms should be transported immediately to the nearest emergency department, via emergency vehicle.
 - a. deterioration of neurological function
 - b. decreasing level of consciousness
 - c. decrease or irregularity in respirations
 - d. decrease or irregularity in pulse
 - e. unequal, dilated, or unreactive pupils
 - f. any signs or symptoms of associated injuries, spine or skull fracture, or bleeding

- g. mental status changes: lethargy, difficulty maintaining arousal, confusion or agitation
 - h. seizure activity
 - i. cranial nerve deficits
4. An athlete who is symptomatic but stable, may be transported by his or her parents. The parents should be advised to contact the athlete's primary care physician, or seek care at the nearest emergency department, on the day of the injury.
- a. ALWAYS give parents the option of emergency transportation, even if you do not feel it is necessary.

Procedures for the Board approved medical personnel

A. Board approved medical personnel will assess the injury, or provide guidance to the coach if unable to personally attend to the athlete.

1. Immediate referral to the athlete's primary care physician or to the hospital will be made when medically appropriate (see section II).

2. Board approved medical personnel will perform serial assessments following recommendations in the NATA Statement, and utilize the SCAT (Sport Concussion Assessment Tool), as recommended by the Prague Statement, or sideline ImPACT, if available.

a. Board approved medical personnel will notify the athlete's parents and give written and verbal home and follow-up care instructions.

B. Board approved medical personnel will notify the school nurse of the injury, prior to the next school day, so that the school RN can initiate appropriate follow-up in school immediately upon the athlete's return to school.

- 1. Board approved medical personnel will continue to provide coordinated care with the school RN, for the duration of the injury.
- 2. Board approved medical personnel will communicate with the Athletic Director regarding the athlete's neurocognitive and recovery status, if needed.
- 3. The Athletic Director will communicate with the student-athlete's teachers regarding the athlete's neurocognitive and recovery status.

(Procedures for the Board Approved Medical Personnel, cont'd.)

C. Board approved medical personnel are responsible for administering post-concussion ImPACT testing.

1. The initial post-concussion test will be administered within 48-72 hours post-injury, whenever possible.
 - a. Repeat post-concussion tests will be given at appropriate intervals, dependent upon clinical presentation.
2. Board approved medical personnel will review post-concussion test data with the athlete and the athlete's parent.
3. Board approved medical personnel will forward testing results to the athlete's treating physician, with parental permission and a signed release of information form.
4. Board approved medical personnel or the athlete's parent may request that a neuropsychological consultant review the test data. The athlete's parents will be responsible for charges associated with the consultation.
5. Board approved medical personnel will monitor the athlete, and keep the School Nurse informed of the individual's symptomatology and neurocognitive status, for the purposes of developing or modifying an appropriate health care plan for the student-athlete.
6. Board approved medical personnel is responsible for monitoring recovery & coordinating the appropriate return to play activity progression.
7. Board approved medical personnel will maintain appropriate documentation regarding assessment and management of the injury.

Guidelines and procedures for coaches:

RECOGNIZE, REMOVE, REFER

A. **Recognize** concussion

1. All coaches should become familiar with the signs and symptoms of concussion that are described in section I.
2. Very basic cognitive testing should be performed to determine cognitive deficits.

B. **Remove** from activity

1. If a coach suspects the athlete has sustained a concussion, the athlete should be removed from activity until evaluated medically.
 - a. **Any athlete who exhibits signs or symptoms of a concussion should be removed immediately, assessed, and will not be allowed to return to activity that day.**

C. **Refer** the athlete for medical evaluation

1. Coaches should report all head injuries to board approved medical personnel as soon as possible, for medical assessment and management, and for coordination of home instructions and follow-up care.
 - a. Board approved medical personnel can be reached at:
 - a. Tim Berger
 - b. Derrick Keylor
 - c. Other
 - b. Board approved medical personnel will be responsible for contacting the athlete's parents and providing follow-up instructions.
 2. Coaches should seek assistance from the host site board approved medical personnel if at an away contest.
 3. If the away team's board approved medical personnel is unavailable, or the athlete is injured at an away event, the coach is responsible for notifying the athlete's parents of the injury.
 - a. Contact the parents to inform them of the injury and make arrangements for them to pick the athlete up at school.
 - b. Contact board approved medical personnel at the above number, with the athlete's name and home phone number, so that follow-up can be initiated.
- Additional copies are available from the AT.

c. Remind the athlete to report directly to the school nurse and or athletic director before school starts, on the day he or she returns to school after the injury.

4. In the event that an athlete's parents cannot be reached, and the athlete is able to be sent home (rather than directly to MD):
 - a. The Coach or board approved medical personnel should insure that the athlete will be with a responsible individual, who is capable of monitoring the athlete and understanding the home care instructions, before allowing the athlete to go home.
 - b. The Coach or board approved medical personnel should continue efforts to reach the parent.
 - c. If there is any question about the status of the athlete, or if the athlete is not able to be monitored appropriately, the athlete should be referred to the emergency department for evaluation. A coach or board approved medical personnel should accompany the athlete and remain with the athlete until the parents arrive.
 - d. Athletes with suspected head injuries should not be permitted to drive home.

FOLLOW-UP CARE OF THE ATHLETE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

A. Responsibilities of the board approved medical personnel after notification of student's concussion

1. The athlete will be instructed to report to board approved medical personnel upon his or her return to school. At that point, the board approved medical personnel will:
 - a. re-evaluate the athlete utilizing a graded symptom checklist.
 - b. provide an individualized health care plan based on both the athlete's current condition, and initial injury information provided by the AT or parent.
2. Notify the athletic director and teachers of the injury immediately via the individualized health care plan form.
3. If the board approved medical personnel receives notification of a student-athlete who has sustained a concussion from someone other than board approved medical personnel (athlete's parent, athlete, physician note), the board approved medical personnel should be notified as soon as possible, so that an appointment for ImPACT testing can be made.
4. Monitor the athlete on a regular basis during the school day.

B. Responsibilities of the student's guidance counselor or

1. Monitor the student closely and recommend appropriate academic accommodations for students who are exhibiting symptoms of post-concussion syndrome.
2. Communicate with board approved medical personnel on a regular basis, to provide the most effective care for the student.

RETURN TO PLAY (RTP) PROCEDURES AFTER CONCUSSION

A. Returning to participate on the same day of injury

1. As previously discussed in this document, an athlete who exhibits signs or symptoms of concussion, or has abnormal cognitive testing, will not be permitted to return to play on the day of the injury. Any athlete who denies symptoms but has abnormal sideline cognitive testing should be held out of activity.
2. "When in doubt, hold them out."

B. Return to play after concussion

1. The athlete must meet all of the following criteria in order to progress to activity:
 - a. Asymptomatic at rest and with exertion (including mental exertion in school) AND:
 - b. Within normal range of baseline on post-concussion ImPACT testing AND:
 - c. Have written clearance from primary care physician or specialist (athlete must be cleared for progression to activity by a physician other than an Emergency Room physician).
2. Once the above criteria are met, the athlete will be progressed back to full activity following a stepwise process, (as recommended by both the Prague and NATA Statements), under the supervision of the AT.
3. Progression is individualized, and will be determined on a case by case basis. Factors that may affect the rate of progression include: previous history of concussion, duration and type of symptoms, age of the athlete, and sport/activity in which the athlete participates. An athlete with a prior history of concussion, one who has had an extended duration of symptoms, or one who is participating in a collision or contact sport should be progressed more slowly.
4. Stepwise progression as described in the Prague Statement:

- a) No activity – do not progress to step 2 until asymptomatic
- b) Light aerobic exercise – walking, stationary bike
- c) Sport-specific training (e.g., skating in hockey, running in soccer)
- d) Non-contact training drills
- e) Full-contact training after medical clearance
- f) Game play

Note: If the athlete experiences post-concussion symptoms during any phase, the athlete should drop back to the previous asymptomatic level and resume the progression after 24 hours.

5. Board approved medical personnel and athlete will discuss appropriate activities for the day. The athlete will be given verbal and written instructions regarding permitted activities. Board approved medical personnel and athlete will each sign these instructions. One copy of this form is for the athlete to give to the coach, and one will be maintained by the board approved medical personnel.

6. The athlete must see board approved medical personnel daily for re-assessment and instructions until he, or she, has progressed to unrestricted activity, and been given a written report to that effect, from Board approved medical personnel.

Use of school facilities by local youth sports organizations.

1. All youth sports organizations that use Franklin Local facilities for practices and/or contests must provide the Athletic Director with proof that all coaches and umpires have the requirement of completion of the concussion course.
 - i. A roster of all coaches and umpires must be submitted to the Athletic Director.
 - ii. A copy of the concussion course certificate for each coach/umpire must accompany the roster.
2. Failure to provide the necessary paperwork will result in that youth organization not being allowed to use Franklin Local facilities for practices/contests.