

CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES

The Stroud Board of Education recognizes that concussions and head injuries are commonly reported injuries in contact sports.

On an annual basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet shall be completed and returned to the school district by the youth athlete and the youth athlete's parent or guardian prior to the youth athlete's participation in practice or competition. The athletic director shall provide written instructions to all coaches to ensure that no youth athletes are allowed to participate in practice or competition prior to the receipt of a concussion and head injury information sheet. Any coach or staff allowing a youth athlete to participate in practice or competition prior to the receipt of a signed concussion and head injury information sheet shall be disciplined and may be terminated from employment in the extra duty assignment.

A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury during a practice or game shall be removed from participation at that time. Any youth athlete removed from participation shall not be allowed to participate until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussion and receives written clearance to return to participation from that health care provider. "Return to learn" guidelines shall be provided to teachers and relevant school personnel pertaining to athletes returning to the classroom after sustaining a concussion or head injury. "Graduated return to athletic participation" guidelines shall be provided to coaches and staff members pertaining to youth athletes returning to activity after sustaining a head injury or concussion.

The school district shall impose the following minimum penalties for failing to remove an athlete from an activity:

1st offense: The coach or staff member will be required to attend additional training.

2nd offense: The coach or staff member will be suspended from the sport or activity until an appearance in front of the board of education. The appearance before the board of education may involve a determination as to whether the coach or staff member will continue employment in the extra duty assignment.

Additional free online concussion training programs are available at The Center for Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov/HeadsUp/index.html> and at the National Federation of State High School Associations at <http://nfhslearn.com/?courseID=38000>.

Return to learn guidelines are located at:

http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/pdfs/schools/tbi_classroom_tips_for_teachers-a.pdf

Graduated return to participation guidelines are located at:

http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/pdfs/custom/headsupconcussion_fact_sheet_for_schools.pdf

REFERENCE: 70 O.S. §24-155

POLICY NOTE: SB 1164 (2016) requires that a school policy include links to one or more online concussion training programs provided by the Center for Disease Control, the National Federation of State High School Associations or comparable programs or resources. We have linked two above in the final paragraph of this policy.

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CONCUSSION AND HEAD INJURY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND INFORMATION SHEET

In compliance with Oklahoma Statute Section 24-155 of Title 70, this acknowledgement form is to confirm that you have read and understand the Concussion Fact Sheet provided to you by the Stroud School District related to potential concussions and head injuries occurring during participation in athletics.

I, _____, as a student-athlete who participates in The Stroud School District's athletic programs and I, _____ as the parent/legal guardian, have read the information material provided to us by the Stroud School District related to concussions and head injuries occurring during participation in athletic programs and understand the content and warnings.

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT-ATHLETE

DATE

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

DATE

This form should be completed annually prior to the athlete's first practice and/or competition and be kept on file for one year beyond the date of signature in the principal's office or the office designated by the principal

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CONCUSSION/HEAD INJURY INFORMATION SHEET STUDENT-ATHLETES

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

- A concussion is a brain injury
- Is caused by a bump or blow to the head
- Can change the way your brain normally works
- Can occur during practice or games in any sport
- Can happen even if you have not been knocked out
- Can be serious even if you have just been “dinged”

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION?

- Headache or “pressure” in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion
- Does not “feel right”

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK I HAVE A CONCUSSION?

- Tell your coaches or parents. Never ignore a bump or blow to the head even if you feel fine. Also, tell your coach if one of your teammates may have a concussion.
- Get a medical checkup. A doctor or health care professional can tell you if you have a concussion and when you are OK to return to play.
- Give yourself time to get better. If you have had a concussion, your brain needs time to heal.
- While your brain is still healing, you are much more likely to have a second concussion.
- Additional concussions can cause damage to your brain. It is important to rest until you get approval from a doctor or health care professional to return to play.

HOW CAN I PREVENT A CONCUSSION?

- Follow your coach’s rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- Practice good sportsmanship.
- Use the proper equipment, including personal protective equipment (such as helmets, padding, shin guards and eye and mouth guards---IN ORDER FOR EQUIPMENT TO PROTECT YOU, it must be the right equipment for the game, position and activity; it must be worn correctly and used every time you play.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

- www.cdc.gov/TraumaticBraininjury/
- www.oata.net
- www.ossaa.com
- www.nfhslearn.com

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IT'S BETTER TO MISS ONE GAME THAN THE WHOLE SEASON!

CONCUSSION/HEAD INJURY FACT SHEET

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury. Concussions are caused by a bump or blow to the head. Even a “ding”, “getting your bell rung” or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious. You cannot see a concussion. Signs and symptoms of a concussion can show up right after the injury or may not appear to be noticed until days or weeks after the injury. If your child reports any symptoms of a concussion or if you notice any symptoms yourself, seek medical attention right away.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETES?

Headache or “pressure” in head

Nausea or vomiting

Balance problems or dizziness

Sensitivity to light

Sensitivity to noise

Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy or groggy

Concentration or memory problems

Confusion

Does not “feel right”

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OBSERVED BY PARENTS/GUARDIANS?

Appears dazed or stunned

Is confused about assignment or position

Forgets an instruction

Is unsure of game, score or opponent

Moves clumsily

Answers questions slowly

Loses consciousness (even briefly)

Shows behavior or personality changes

Cannot recall events prior to hit or fall

Cannot recall events after hit or fall

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD PREVENT A CONCUSSION?

Ensure they follow their coach’s rules for safety and the rules of the sport.

Make sure they use the proper equipment, including personal protective equipment (such as helmets, padding, shin guards and eye and mouth guards----IN ORDER FOR EQUIPMENT TO PROTECT YOU, it must be the right equipment for the game, position and activity; it must be worn correctly and used every time you play.)

Learn the signs and symptoms of a concussion.

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