

Student Sports – Concussion, Head Injury and Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Concussion and Head Injury

The Edmonds School District Board of Directors recognizes that concussions and head injuries are commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and other recreational activities. The board acknowledges that the risk of catastrophic injuries or death is significant when a concussion or head injury is not properly evaluated and managed.

For all competitive sports activities in the district, appropriate staff, coaches and team volunteers will complete training as required in Procedure 3422 to recognize warning signs and symptoms of concussion and head injury. Additionally, all coaches will comply with Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) guidelines for the management of concussions and head injuries.

Consistent with Washington law, Edmonds School District will utilize guidelines developed with the WIAA and other pertinent information to inform and educate coaches, youth athletes and their parents/guardians of the nature and risk of concussions or head injuries, including the dangers associated with continuing to play after a concussion or head injury. Annually, the district will distribute a head injury and concussion information sheet to all parents/guardians of student participants in competitive sport activities. Prior to participating in an interscholastic activity, students and their parent/guardian must review and sign-off on the district's Athletic Eligibility Questionnaire that they have reviewed the concussion information sheet.

Prior to their first use of school facilities, all private nonprofit youth programs must provide a written statement of compliance with this policy in regard to concussion and head injury with proof of insurance as required by RCW 4.24.660.

A youth athlete who has been removed from play due to suspected concussion or head injury may not return to play until the athlete is evaluated and cleared for play by a licensed health care provider.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

The Board of Directors further recognizes that sudden cardiac arrest is reported to be the leading cause of death in young athletes. The board will work with the WIAA and the University of Washington medicine center for sports cardiology to make available an online pamphlet that provides student athletes, their parents/guardians and coaches with information about sudden cardiac arrest. To this end, the district will maintain a link on its website to the OSPI website where the online pamphlet will be posted.

Annually, prior to participating in an interscholastic athletic activity, students and their parent/guardian must review the online pamphlet and return a signed statement to the school documenting their review.

The board will also work with the WIAA and the University of Washington medicine center for sports cardiology to make available an existing online sudden cardiac arrest prevention program for coaches. Every three years, prior to coaching an interscholastic athletic activity, all coaches will complete the online program and provide a certificate of completion to the district.

All coaches, including volunteers, will complete training as required in the district procedure. Additionally, all coaches will comply with Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) guidelines for the management of sudden cardiac arrest.

Prior to their first use of school facilities, all private nonprofit youth programs must provide a written statement of compliance with this policy in regard to sudden cardiac arrest with proof of insurance as required by RCW 4.24.660.

A youth athlete who has been removed from play may not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider.

Cross References

3412 - Automated External Defibrillators

3418 - Response to Student Injury or Illness

4260 - Use of School Facilities

Legal References

RCW 4.24.660 Liability of school districts under contract with youth programs

Chapter 28A.600 RCW Students

Management Resources

2015 - June Policy Issue

2014 - August Issue

2009 - August Issue

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Edmonds School District

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