

Stoughton Public School District Head Injury and Concussion Policy

Concussions and head injuries can be serious. The Stoughton Public School District *Concussion/TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) management policy and procedures* are in place to protect the health and safety of students and limit additional complications related to head injuries as required by 105 CMR 201.000. This policy and procedures will provide standardized procedures for persons involved in the prevention, training, management and return to activity decisions regarding students who incur head injuries.

Head Injury, Concussion / TBI is defined as: “A complex pathophysiological process affecting the brain, induced by traumatic biochemical forces. TBI may be caused by a direct blow to the head, face, neck or somewhere else on the body with an impulsive force transmitted to the head. TBI includes, but is not limited to, a concussion.”

Any student, who during practice or competition, sustains a head injury or suspected concussion, or exhibits signs and symptoms of a concussion, shall be removed from the practice or competition immediately and may not return to the practice or competition until cleared by an appropriate health care professional. For “return to play”, the student must be completely symptom free and medically cleared in order to begin the graduated re-entry to extracurricular athletic activities.

- The Athletic Director will be responsible for the implementation of these policies and procedures.
- Annual training is required of persons specified in 105 CMR 201.008 in the prevention of a sports-related head injury, including second impact syndrome. The Athletic Director, Director of Nursing and the Fine Arts Director will be responsible for the maintaining records of completion of annual training for the appropriate members of their departments.
- Information concerning an athlete’s history of head injury and concussion, recuperation, reentry plan and authorization to return to play and academic activities will be shared on a need to know basis consistent with requirements of 105 CMR 201.000 and applicable federal and state law including, but not limited to, the Massachusetts Student Regulations, 603 CMR 23.00 and the Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act Regulations, 34 CFR Part 99.
- Review and revisions of the policies and procedures shall occur as needed, but at least every two years.

Protocols will include:

- Documentation of student’s history of head injuries including concussions.
- Documentation of required physical examination for students participating in extra-curricular athletic activities and completion of the Pre-Participation Head Injury/Concussion Reporting Form;
- Student athlete and parent/guardian are required to participate in any and all safety clearance programs as set forth by the Athletic Director;
- Inclusion of the sports-related head injury policy in the student handbook;
- Head injuries or suspected concussions sustained in practices or games be reported to the parent/guardian;
- Head injuries or suspected concussions will be reported to the school nurse and/or certified athletic trainer within 24 hours;
- A procedure for post-head injury graduated re-entry accommodation plans to school academic and athletic activities, if indicated;
- Inclusion of Athletic Trainer and School Nurse in development of the graduated re-entry accommodation plans for individual students as needed;
- Information concerning an athlete’s history of head injury and concussion, recuperation, reentry plan and authorization to return to play
- Procedure for maintaining all reporting forms according to 105 CMR 201.016;