

Haddam Killingworth High School

Student and Parent Concussion Informed Consent Form 2015-16

This consent form was developed to provide students and parents with current and relevant information regarding concussions and to comply with Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Chapter 163, Section 149b: *Concussions: Training courses for coaches. Education plan. Informed consent form. Development or approval by the State Board of Education* and Section 10-149c: *Student athletes and concussions. Removal from athletic activities. Notification of parent or legal guardian. Revocation of coaching permit.*

What is a Concussion?

National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) - *A concussion is a "trauma induced alteration in mental status that may or may not involve loss of consciousness."*

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - *"A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury, or TBI, caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head that can change the way your brain normally works. Concussions can also occur from a blow to the body that causes the head to move rapidly back and forth."* -CDC, Heads Up: Concussion
http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/basics/concussion_what.html

Even a "ding," "getting your bell rung," or what seems to be mild bump or blow to the head can be serious" -CDC, Heads Up: Concussion Fact Sheet for Coaches http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/pdf/Fact_Sheet_Coaches-a.pdf

Section 1. Concussion Education Plan Summary

The [Concussion Education Plan and Guidelines for Connecticut Schools](#) was approved by the Connecticut State Board of Education in January 2015. Below is an outline of the requirements of the Plan. The complete document is accessible on the CSDE Web site: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2663&q=335572>

State law requires that each local and regional board of education must approve and then implement a concussion education plan by using written materials, online training or videos, or in-person training that addresses, at a minimum the following:

1. The recognition of signs or symptoms of concussion.
2. The means of obtaining proper medical treatment for a person suspected of sustaining a concussion.
3. The nature and risks of concussions, including the danger of continuing to engage in athletic activity after sustaining a concussion.
4. The proper procedures for allowing a student athlete who has sustained a concussion to return to athletic activity.
5. Current best practices in the prevention and treatment of a concussion.

Section 2. Signs and Symptoms of a Concussion: Overview

A concussion should be suspected if any one or more of the following signs or symptoms are present, or if the coach/evaluator is unsure, following an impact or suspected impact as described in the CDC definition above.

Signs of a concussion may include (i.e. what the athlete displays/looks like to an observer):

- Confusion/disorientation/irritability
- Trouble resting/getting comfortable
- Lack of concentration
- Slow response/drowsiness
- Incoherent/slurred speech
- Slow/clumsy movements
- Loses consciousness
- Amnesia/memory problems
- Acts silly/combative/aggressive
- Repeatedly ask same questions
- Dazed appearance
- Restless/irritable
- Constant attempts to return to play
- Constant motion
- Disproportionate/inappropriate reactions
- Balance problems

Symptoms of a concussion may include (i.e. what the athlete reports):

- Headache or dizziness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Blurred or double vision
- Oversensitivity to sound/light/touch
- Ringing in ears
- Feeling foggy or groggy

State law requires that a coach **MUST** immediately remove a student-athlete from participating in any intramural or interscholastic athletic activity who: a) is observed to exhibit signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion following a suspected blow to the head or body, or b) is diagnosed with a concussion, regardless of when such concussion or head injury may have occurred. **Upon removal of the athlete, a qualified school employee must notify the parent or legal guardian within 24 hours that the student athlete has exhibited signs and symptoms of a concussion.**

Section 3. Return to Play (RTP) Protocol Overview

Currently, it is impossible to accurately predict how long an individual’s concussion will last. There must be full recovery before a student-athlete is allowed to resume participating in athletic activity. Connecticut law now requires that no athlete may resume participation until they have received written medical clearance from a licensed health care professional (physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), athletic trainer) trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.

Concussion Management Requirements:

1. No athlete SHALL return to participation in the athletic activity on the same day of concussion.
2. If there is any loss of consciousness, vomiting or seizures, the athlete MUST be immediately transported to the hospital.
3. Close observation of an athlete MUST continue following a concussion. The athlete should be monitored for an appropriate amount of time following the injury to ensure that there is no worsening/escalation of symptoms.
4. Any athlete with signs or symptoms related to a concussion MUST be evaluated by a licensed health care professional (physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), athletic trainer) trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.
5. The athlete MUST obtain an initial written clearance from one of the licensed health care professionals identified above directing her/him into a well-defined RTP stepped protocol similar to the one outlined below. If at any time signs or symptoms return during the RTP progression, the athlete should cease activity.
6. After the RTP protocol has been successfully administered (no longer exhibits any signs or symptoms or behaviors consistent with concussions), final written medical clearance is required by one of the licensed health care professionals identified above for the athlete to fully return to unrestricted participation in practices and competitions.

Medical Clearance RTP protocol (Recommended one full day between steps)

Rehabilitation stage	Functional exercise at each stage of rehabilitation	Objective of each stage
1. No activity	Complete physical and cognitive rest until asymptomatic. School may need to be modified.	Recovery
2. Light aerobic exercise	Walking, swimming or stationary cycling maintaining intensity <70% of maximal exertion; no resistance training	Increase Heart Rate
3. Sport specific exercise No contact	Skating drills in ice hockey, running drills in soccer; no head impact activities	Add Movement
4. Non-contact sport drills	Progression to more complex training drills, ie. passing drills in football and ice hockey; may start progressive resistance training	Exercise, coordination and cognitive load
5. Full contact sport drills	Following final medical clearance, participate in normal training activities	Restore confidence and assess functional skills by coaching staff
6. Full activity	No restrictions	Return to full athletic participation

If at any time signs or symptoms should worsen during the RTP progression the athlete should stop activity that day. If the athlete’s symptoms are gone the next day, she/he may resume the RTP progression at the last step completed in which no symptoms were present. If symptoms return and don’t resolve, the athlete should be referred back to her/his medical provider.

Section 4. Local/Regional Board of Education Policies Regarding Concussions

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 17 CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

I have read and understand this document the “Student and Parent Concussion Informed Consent Form” and the attached “Regional School District 17 Concussion Protocol” document and understand the severities associated with concussions and the need for immediate treatment of such injuries.

Student name: _____ Date _____ Signature _____
(Print Name)

I authorize my child to participate in _____ for school year _____
(Sport/Activity)

Parent/Guardian name: _____ Date _____ Signature _____
(Print Name)

References:

1. NFHS. Concussions. 2008 NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook (Third Edition). 2008: 77-82.
<http://www.nfhs.org>
http://journals.lww.com/cjsportsmed/Fulltext/2009/05000/Consensus_Statement_on_Concussion_in_Sport_3rd.1.aspx.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Heads Up: Concussion in High School Sports*. http://www.cdc.gov/NCIPC/tbi/Coaches_Tool_Kit.htm.
3. CIAC Concussion Central - <http://concussioncentral.ciacsports.com/>

Resources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Injury Prevention & Control: Traumatic Brain Injury*. Retrieved on June 16, 2010.
<http://www.cdc.gov/TraumaticBrainInjury/index.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Heads Up: Concussion in High School Sports Guide for Coaches*. Retrieved on June 16, 2014.

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #17
CONCUSSION PROTOCOL**

1. As soon as a concussion is suspected the student must immediately be removed from the activity and appropriate medical personnel will be contacted including: the school nurse; athletic trainer; or 911.
2. Should the student display ANY symptoms of a concussion a parent/guardian will be called and the student will be removed from the activity or event and referred to the student's primary care physician, the emergency room, or 911 will be called.
3. If the student does not show symptoms until later on, such that the coach or trainer had no knowledge the student is symptomatic, the school nurse must be notified by the parent/guardian. Should the student not go to the emergency room initially, it is ALWAYS recommended that immediate medical care be sought if certain worrisome signs develop including:
 - Worsening headache that does not go away
 - Repetitive vomiting
 - Altered mental status (drowsy or cannot be awakened)
 - Weakness, numbness or decreased coordination
 - Slurred speech
4. The ImPACT test will be re-administered 24-72 hours after the injury by appropriate school personnel (depending upon instructions from the Doctor).
5. School activities including; attendance at school, classwork load, and homework may need to be accommodated during the recovery period. The school nurse will work with your child's school counselor and your child's primary care physician to create a plan that works best for your child.

IF YOUR STUDENT WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A CONCUSSION THEY MUST COMPLETE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

STEP 1: In order to be eligible for the return to play protocol, a student must meet ALL of the following requirements:

- A note from the student's **primary care physician** clearing them for activity must be received by the school nurse
- Symptom free for 7 days
- Completing full days of school with no academic restrictions
- Participating in Physical Education
- ImPACT test administered, and evaluated by Dr. Nohlfo at the Shoreline Concussion Center

STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON THE SIDELINES OF A GAME OR PRACTICE, OR TRAVELING TO AWAY CONTESTS PRIOR TO COMPLETING STEP 1.

STEP 2: Once all of these conditions above have been met, the student can begin the gradual return to play protocol

- Day 1: Running/Sprinting
- Day 2: Noncontact drills
- Day 3: Contact drills
- Day 4: Full Scrimmage Play
- Day 5: Able to Play in a Game

STEP 1 & STEP 2 ARE NOT COMPLETED AT THE SAME TIME. THE GRADUAL RETURN TO PLAY (STEP 2) BEGINS AFTER ALL REQUIREMENTS IN STEP 1 HAVE BEEN MET. A STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO PLAY ONLY AFTER STEP 1 AND STEP 2 HAVE BEEN FULLY COMPLETED.