

Pennsbury School District

School Board Policy

Effective Date	Supercedes Index No.	Index No.
01/10/13	NEW	123.3

Title: Concussion Management

Purpose: This policy was developed in accordance with the provisions in the School Code and in compliance with the Pennsylvania Safety in Youth Sports Act. The Board recognizes the importance of the safety of student athletes and the significance of training coaches and students on the prevention, detection, and treatment of concussions sustained by students while participating in an athletic activity.

Definitions: **Athletic activity** shall mean all of the following:

1. Interscholastic athletics.
2. An athletic contest or competition, other than interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated with the school, including cheerleading, club-sponsored sports activities and sports activities sponsored by school-affiliated organizations. *A District-affiliated organization is a person or organization hosting a school based activity supplied with an advisor(s), coach(s) or director(s) who are a) receiving approved supplemental pay for the activity; b) performing duties as part of their assigned teaching responsibilities; or c) are volunteering their time to host or sponsor an activity that is approved by the District, such approval to be in writing from a Building Administrator. Organizations that do not meet this definition are club organizations that have **Pennsbury** in the name, including, but not limited to; Pennsbury Ice Hockey Club, Pennsbury Falcons Cheerleading Association, Pennsbury Recreational Basketball League, Pennsbury Falcons Wrestling Club, Pennsbury Ultimate Frisbee, and Pennsbury Athletic Association.*
3. Noncompetitive cheerleading that is sponsored by or associated with the school.
4. Practices, interschool practices, and scrimmages for all athletic activities.

Appropriate medical professional shall mean all of the following:

1. A licensed physician who is trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.
2. A licensed or certified health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and designated by a licensed physician trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.

3. A licensed psychologist neuropsychologically trained in the evaluation and management of concussions or who has postdoctoral training in neuropsychology and specific training in the evaluation and management of concussions.

References: Safety in Youth Sports Act –24 P.S. Sec 5321 et seq

Policy: Each school year, prior to participation in an athletic activity, every student athlete and the student’s parent or guardian must sign and return to the school an acknowledgement of receipt and review of the Understanding of Risk of Concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury information sheet.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop Administrative Procedures to implement this policy, which shall include protocols for concussion management. See Administrative Procedure 123.3: *Concussion Management*.

The school shall hold an informational meeting prior to the start of each athletic season for all competitors participating in middle school and high school athletic activities regarding concussions and other head injuries, the importance of proper concussion management, and how pre-season baseline assessments can aid in the evaluation, management, and recovery process. These meetings may also include parents/guardians, coaches, physicians, neuropsychologists, athletic trainers, and physical therapists.

A student who, as determined by a game official, coach from the student’s team, certified athletic trainer, licensed physician, licensed physical therapist, or other official designated by the District, exhibits signs or symptoms of a concussion or traumatic brain injury while participating in an athletic activity shall be removed by the coach from participation at that time. A parent or guardian will be notified when such determination is made as soon as is practicable after the exclusion.

The coach shall not return a student to participation until the student is evaluated and cleared for return to participation in writing by an appropriate medical professional.

All coaches shall annually, prior to coaching an athletic activity, complete an appropriate concussion management certification training course.

Any coach found in violation of the provisions of this Policy related to removal from play and return to play or regarding the mandatory training shall be subject to the following penalties:

1. For a **first** violation, suspension from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the school year.
2. For a **second** violation, permanent suspension from coaching any athletic activity in the future.

Responsible Administrator: Assistant Superintendent, Administration K-12