

CENTER FOR CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, AND DISCOVERY

Concussion and Head Injury Policy

Purpose

The Board of Directors of the Center for Creativity, Innovation, and Discovery has established this policy to ensure the safety and protection of athletes and students with head injuries and to establish protocols for the management of concussions and head injuries in compliance with Utah Code §26B-4-403, Adoption and Enforcement of a Concussion and Head Injury Policy, and Utah Admin. Code R277-614.

This policy requires that school staff, particularly those involved in supervising students during physical activities, receive training on identifying head injuries and proper response procedures. The policy provides that notice be given to parents and guardians regarding the risks associated with continued participation after a student or athlete sustains a concussion and outlines the protocols required for safe return of students following injury.

Definitions

Agent: means coaches, teachers, employees, representatives, volunteers, or any person acting on behalf of a school, LEA, or organization.

Child: means an individual who is under the age of 18.

Free Play: means unstructured student play, games, and field days during school hours;

Head Injury: means any injury to the head including a mild bump.

Parent: means a parent or legal guardian of a student for whom an LEA is responsible.

Physical Education Class: means a structured school class that includes an adult supervisor.

Qualified Health Care Provider: means a health care provider who is licensed under Title 58, Occupations and Professions; and may evaluate and manage a concussion within the health care provider's scope of practice.

Sporting Event: means any of the following athletic activities that is organized, managed, or sponsored by an organization: game; a practice; a sports camp; a physical education class; a competition; or a tryout.

Sporting Event: does **not** mean, as applied to a government entity or school, merely making available a field, facility, or other location owned, leased, or controlled by the government entity to an amateur sports organization or a child, regardless of whether the school charges a fee or the use; or free play or recess taking place during school hours.

Traumatic Head Injury: means an injury to the head arising from blunt trauma, an acceleration force, or a deceleration force, with one of the following observed or self-reported conditions attributable to the injury:

- Transient confusion, disorientation, or impaired consciousness;
- Dysfunction of memory;
- Loss of consciousness; or
- Signs of other neurological or neuropsychological dysfunction, including seizures; irritability; lethargy; vomiting; headache; dizziness; or fatigue.

Policy Implementation

The Administration will provide all teachers and staff with required annual training which procedures for managing school-related head injuries and sports-related concussions are discussed and this policy reviewed.

- The school will ensure that appropriate guidelines and forms are available from the school.
- In accordance with Utah Code §26B-4-403, the Administration will ensure the following:
 - That each agent of the organization is familiar with and has access to a copy of the Concussion and Head Injury Policy;
 - That each agent understands the risks of a student's continued participation in a sporting event after sustaining a concussion or a traumatic head injury.
- Before permitting a child to participate in a sporting or athletic event, the school will:
 - Provide a written copy of the Concussion and Head Injury Policy to a parent or guardian of a child; and
 - Obtain the signature of a parent or guardian of the child, acknowledging that the parent or guardian has read, understands, and agrees to abide by the Concussion and Head Injury Policy.

Immediate Removal from Play and Requirement of Medical Clearance

Agents of the school will immediately remove a child suspected of sustaining a concussion or traumatic head injury from play in compliance with Utah Code §26B-4-404 and Utah Admin Code R277-614 which require the following:

- Direction to agents to remove a student from participating in a sporting or athletic event if the student is suspected of sustaining a concussion or a traumatic head injury; and
- Prohibiting the student from participating in a sporting or athletic event until the student has been evaluated by a qualified health care provider who is trained in the evaluation and management of a concussion;
- A written statement from a trained, qualified health care provider clearing a student removed from participation to resume participation in a sporting or athletic event;

- A written statement from the qualified health care provider indicating that the qualified health care provider has, within three years before the day on which the written statement is made, successfully completed a continuing education course in the evaluation and management of a concussion.

School Nurses Evaluating Head Injuries

- As allowed by Utah Code §26B-4-405, a School Nurse may assess a child who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or a traumatic head injury during school hours on school property regardless of whether the nurse has received specialized training in the evaluation and management of a concussion. A School Nurse who does not meet the requirements of Utah Code §26B-4-404 but who assesses a child who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or traumatic head injury will:
 - Refer the child to a qualified health care provider who is trained in the evaluation and management of a concussion; and
 - May not provide a written statement permitting the child to resume participation in free play, a physical education course, or an athletic or sporting event.
- A School Nurse shall undergo training in the evaluation and management of a concussion as funding allows.

Training for School Agents

In compliance with Utah Admin Code R277-614, the school will provide adequate training for agents, consistent with their involvement and responsibility for supervising students in sporting events and physical education classes on traumatic head injuries and appropriate responses to suspected student injuries consistent with the law.

Notification to Parents or Guardians

- The school will notify a parent or guardian of a student who participates in sporting events at least annually of the school's Concussion and Head Injury Policy.
- A parent or guardian must acknowledge their receipt and understanding of this policy in writing on a form provided by the school.
- The school will also notify a parent or guardian if the school becomes aware that a student is reported to have experienced a head injury during school hours or at a school-sanctioned activity, including during free play.

Procedures

In order to manage head injuries, the school has developed the following procedures to achieve the objectives delineated in the purpose of this policy:

- Teachers and staff shall attend yearly training on this policy;
- Teachers and staff will become familiar with the signs and symptoms of concussions described in the Signs and Symptoms Checklist;
- Teachers and staff will immediately remove a student from a physical education class, physical activity, or a sporting event if the student exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with the signs and symptoms of a concussion;
- A teacher or staff member who first notices the signs or symptoms of a concussion, or who has information that a student may have sustained a head injury, will immediately complete an incident report on any head injury or suspected head injury occurring during the school day or at a school event and will attempt to notify a parent or legal guardian as soon as is reasonably possible after a suspected head injury has occurred.
- An agent of the school will ensure that a parent or guardian of a student who has sustained a head injury during the school day or at a school event, or who has exhibited signs of a concussion during the school day or at a school event, has been notified;
- An agent of the school will allow a student who is symptomatic but stable to be transported by his/her parent/s or guardian/s.
- The school will advise such parents or guardians to contact the student's primary care provider or to seek care at the nearest emergency department on the day of the injury.
- An agent of the school will immediately implement the protocols of a medical emergency if a student loses consciousness attendant to a head injury or if a student exhibits symptoms of a concussion and is not stable.
- An agent of the school will refer a student to an Emergency Department for evaluation if there is any question about the status of the student, or if the student cannot be monitored appropriately.
- An agent of the school will accompany the student and remain with the student until a parent arrives.
- Teachers and staff will not allow a student who has exhibited signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion to return to play until cleared by an appropriate health care professional as required by law and until the student's parent or guardian has provided the Concussion Return to Play Medical Clearance Form.

Limitations on Return to Play

In the event that a student shows clear signs of concussion, but a parent refuses or is unable to take the child to a healthcare provider, the school and its agents will not allow a student to return to play in physical education classes, recess, or athletic programs.

The school will make every effort to support a parent in taking appropriate action to enable a return to play.

Signs and Symptoms of Concussions

The signs and symptoms listed below following a witnessed or suspected blow to the head or body are indicative of probable concussion. Any student who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from a physical education activity, contest, game, or practice.

Common signs and symptoms of concussion as observed by others:

- Student appears dazed or stunned
- Confusion
- Forgets plays
- Unsure about game, score, opponent
- Moves clumsily (altered coordination)
- Balance problems
- Personality change
- Responds slowly to questions
- Forgets events prior to hit
- Forgets events after the hit
- Loss of consciousness (any duration)

Symptoms as reported by the student:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Nausea or vomiting
- Double vision, blurry vision
- Sensitive to light or noise
- Feels sluggish
- Feels “foggy”
- Problems concentrating
- Problems remembering

Adopted: August 28, 2025