



10.13 Concussion and Head Injury

DRAFT 1

Effective Date: May 12, 2026

Authorized By: Utah State Board of Education
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1. **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB) to protect the health and safety of students by ensuring appropriate response, management, and return-to-participation protocols for head injuries, including concussions. This policy is adopted and enforced in compliance with Utah Administrative Rule R277-614, *Athletes and Students with Head Injuries*, and Title 26, Chapter 53, Protection of Athletes with Head Injuries Act. II. Definitions

2. **Definitions:**

- 2.1. “Agent” means a coach, teacher, employee, representative, or volunteer.
- 2.2. “Free Play” is unstructured student play, games, and field days during school hours that are not organized, managed, or sponsored as a sporting event.
- 2.3. “Head Injury” is any injury to the head not described as a Traumatic Head Injury, including a mild bump.
- 2.4. “Physical Education Class” is a structured school class that includes an adult supervisor.
- 2.5. “Qualified Health Care Provider” means a "health care provider" who:
 - 2.5.1. is licensed under Title 58, Occupations and Professions; and
 - 2.5.2. may evaluate and manage a concussion within the health care provider's scope of practice. The term "healthcare provider" is specific to: an individual who is licensed as:
 - 2.5.2.1. a physician under Title 58, Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act;

- 2.5.2.2. a physician under Title 58, Chapter 68, Utah Osteopathic Medical Practice Act;
- 2.5.2.3. an advanced practice registered nurse under Utah Code 58-31b-302; or
- 2.5.2.4. a physician assistant under Title 58, Chapter 70a, Utah Physician Assistant Act.
- 2.6. “Sporting Event means any of the following athletic activities that are organized, managed, or sponsored by an organization:
 - 2.6.1. A game
 - 2.6.2. A practice
 - 2.6.3. A sports camp
 - 2.6.4. A physical education class
 - 2.6.5. A competition
 - 2.6.6. A tryout
- 2.7. “Sporting event” does not include certain ski-resort activities such as:
 - 2.7.1. The issuance or use of a lift ticket or pass at a ski resort; or
 - 2.7.2. A skiing or snowboarding class or school at a ski resort, unless it is part of a camp, team, or competition organized or sponsored by the ski resort.
- 2.8. “Traumatic Head Injury (Concussion)” 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:
 - 2.8.1. transient confusion, disorientation, or impaired consciousness;
 - 2.8.2. dysfunction of memory;
 - 2.8.3. loss of consciousness; or
 - 2.8.4. signs of other neurological or neuropsychological dysfunction, including:
 - 2.8.4.1. Seizures;
 - 2.8.4.2. Irritability;
 - 2.8.4.3. Lethargy;
 - 2.8.4.4. Vomiting;
 - 2.8.4.5. Headache;
 - 2.8.4.6. dizziness; or
 - 2.8.4.7. fatigue.

3. **Scope and Applicability**

- 3.1. This policy applies to all students of USDB participating in:
- 3.1.1. Physical education classes offered by the USDB.
 - 3.1.2. Extracurricular activities sponsored by USDB or statewide athletic associations.
 - 3.1.3. Any school hours or school-sanctioned activity, including Free Play.

4. **Procedures for Suspected Head Injury (Remove from Play)**

- 4.1. An Agent shall immediately remove a student from a sporting event, physical education class, or other school-sanctioned activity if the student is suspected of sustaining a concussion or a traumatic head injury.
- 4.2. A student removed from participation under this section is prohibited from continued participation in any sporting event, physical education class, or school-sanctioned activity until the student is evaluated by a trained, qualified health care professional.
- 4.3. A student with a concussion should NEVER return to sports or recreation activities on the same day the student was injured.
- 4.4. If USDB becomes aware that a student has been reported to have experienced a head injury during school hours or during a school-sanctioned activity, including during Free Play, the school shall notify the student's parent.

5. **Return to Participation Requirements**

- 5.1. A student who has been removed from an activity due to a suspected head injury shall not resume participation until USDB receives a written statement from a trained, qualified health care provider clearing the student to return to a sporting event, physical education class, or other school-sanctioned activity.
- 5.2. The written statement must explicitly state that the student is cleared for full or modified participation.

6. **Training and Education**

- 6.1. USDB shall ensure that all Agents receive adequate training consistent with their involvement and responsibility for supervising students in sporting events and physical education classes.
- 6.2. This training shall cover:

- 6.2.1. Identification of a student's traumatic head injuries.
- 6.2.2. Procedures for responding to suspected student injuries, consistent with state law.
- 6.3. Coaches and those supervising students participating in an extracurricular activity on behalf of an LEA are required to be CPR-certified under USBE Board Rule R277-605.
- 7. **Parent Notification and Policy Posting**
 - 7.1. Annual Notification: USDB shall provide written notice of this Traumatic Head Injury Policy at least annually to parents of students who participate in sporting events. This notice must be acknowledged by a parent in writing.
 - 7.2. Public Posting: USDB shall post this policy on the USDB website, where the information will be readily accessible to the public and parents.