Student Sports: Concussions and Head Injuries

During the 2011 Utah legislative session, House Bill 204 was passed requiring amateur sports organizations (including public schools) to “adopt and enforce a concussion and head injury policy.” H.B. 204 require an amateur sports organization to:

(a) adopt and enforce a concussion and head injury policy
(b) inform a parent or legal guardian of the policy
(c) obtain the parent’s or legal guardian’s signature on the policy before permitting a child to participate in a sporting event
(d) describe the requirements of a concussion and head injury policy
(e) remove a child from a sporting event when the child is suspected of sustaining a concussion or traumatic head injury
(f) prohibit a child who has been injured from participating in a sporting event of the amateur sports organization until the child receives medical clearance from a qualified health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of a concussion.

Protection of student-athletes with head injuries

1. Posting of Provo City School District’s Protection of Student-Athletes with Head Injuries
   a. The district will post on its website the “Traumatic Head Injury” policy according to the requirements.
   b. All parents or guardians with students involved in sports programs will be provided information on how to access the districts concussion and head injury policy

2. Training for all appropriate personnel
   Provo School District staff including, but not limited to, physical education teachers/instructors, coaches, and any other staff supervising contests and games will be required to attend a district yearly in-service meeting in which procedures for managing sporting event-related concussions are discussed. Each participants name will be recorded and kept on record by the school administrator.

3. Notice to Parents/Parental Permission Form
   Parents or legal guardians with students involved in any sporting event will be required to sign a release form acknowledging their responsibility to “READ, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ABIDE” by this Policy and Procedure.”

4. Medical Clearance
   a. Any child suspected of sustaining a concussion and or traumatic injury shall be removed immediately from the sporting event.
   b. The child shall be prevented from returning to the sporting event until the child is evaluated by a qualified health care provider who is trained in the evaluation of management of a concussion.
   c. Provide the school with a written statement that the qualified health provider has,
within three years before the day of which the statement is made, successfully completed a continuing education course in the evaluation and management of a concussion.

d. Provide a written statement that the child is cleared to resume participation in the sporting event

County Health Department nurses and Physical Education specialists shall review this protocol annually. Any changes or modifications will be directed first to the Provo City School District Student Services department, which will then review and distribute the revised written guidelines to athletic department staff, including coaches and other appropriate school personnel.

The Utah State Board of Education passed R277-614 on August 6, 2011. The Rule directs LEAs to develop a policy using the USOE/Risk Management’s model policy, to provide training to appropriate personnel, to provide notice to parents of the LEA’s policy, to post a copy of the LEA’s policy, and to use model parent acknowledgement and permission forms. Policy and Procedure 3422 complies fully with the USOE and Risk Management direction.

Adopted by Board of Education September, 2011