

## **Return to Play**

No Students may participate in any interscholastic athletic activity (contest, practice, try-out, etc.) unless they have provided a completed form stating that the Student and his/her parent, guardian, or person in care or charge of the Student has received (a) the concussion and head injury information sheet required by R.C. 3707.52 and (b) the sudden cardiac arrest information sheet required by R.C. 3707.59. These forms are required to be provided for each athletic activity, each school year.

### Concussions and Head Injuries

Any student who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustain a concussion or head injury (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) while practicing for or during an interscholastic competition shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest by either (a) the individual who is serving as the Student's coach during that practice or competition or (b) an individual who is serving as a contest official or referee during the practice or competition.

Upon removing a Student from a practice or contest under this policy, the removing coach or referee shall not permit the Student to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach or contest official is responsible **for the rest of that day**.

Following this mandatory removal for the rest of the day, the coach or contest officials shall not permit the Student to return to practice and/or competition until both of the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1) The Student's condition is assessed by a physician authorized under Chapter 4731 of the Ohio Revised Code to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine or surgery (M.D. or D.O.) or any other licensed health care provider that the Board authorizes under this policy to assess the Student who has been removed from practice or competition.
- 2) The Student receives written authorization from a physician or other licensed health care provider authorized by the Board under this policy confirming that it is safe for the student to return to practice or competition.

For OHSAA interscholastic athletic teams, Students must submit a complete OHSAA Medical Authorization to Return to Play Form to his/her coach in order to resume participation in any school athletic practice or competition. See also, the Ohio High School Athletic Association website (<http://ohsaa.org/medicine/AuthorizationToReenter.pdf>).

The Board may authorize a School employee or volunteer who is a licensed health care provider but who is not a physician to make the concussion assessment and grant authorization for a student to return to participation. Any individual authorized to assess a student under this policy shall act in accordance with one of the following as applicable to the provider's authority to practice in Ohio:

- In consultation with a physician;
- Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
- In collaboration with a physician; or
- Under the supervision of a physician.

### Sudden Cardiac Arrest

A Student may not participate in an athletic activity if the Student's biological parent, sibling, or child has previously experienced sudden cardiac arrest and the Student has not been evaluated and cleared for participation in an athletic activity by a physician authorized to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery under R.C. Chapter 4731.

Any Student who exhibits syncope or fainting at any time prior to, during, or following an athletic activity shall be removed from participation in an athletic activity by the individual serving as the Student's coach during that practice or competition. Following this mandatory removal, the coach shall not permit the Student to return to practice and/or competition until the Student is evaluated and cleared for return in writing by an authorized individual listed in R.C. 3313.5310(E)(3). Any coach who violates this requirement may be subject to discipline.

Prior to the start of each athletic season, the School may hold an informational meeting for students, parents, guardians, persons having care or charge of a student, physicians, cardiologists, athletic trainers, or other relevant individuals regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest for all ages of students.

The School, Management Company, if any, Board members, and School or Management Company employees or volunteers, including coaches, are not liable in damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly arising from providing services or performing duties under this policy, unless the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton misconduct. This policy does not eliminate, limit or reduce any other immunity or defense that the above individuals may be entitled to under Chapter 2744 of the Revised Code or any other provision of law.

### Requirements for School Coaches

All individuals who serve as School coaches must possess a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit. When renewing this permit, all individuals must complete a concussion education course that has been approved by the Ohio Department of Health every three (3) years, or as otherwise required by the Ohio Department of Education to retain the permit. All individuals who serve as School coaches must complete, on an annual basis, the sudden cardiac arrest training course approved by the Ohio Department of Health under R.C. 3707.59(C).

### Requirement for Contest Officials and Referees

The Board shall not permit an individual to serve as a contest official or referee in any interscholastic athletic competition unless the official/referee:

- Holds a pupil-activity program permit issued by the Department of Education; or
- Presents evidence that the individual has successfully completed an online training program to recognize symptoms of concussions and head injuries offered by the Department of Health, or a comparable training program authorized and required by an organization that regulates interscholastic conferences or events.

*R.C. 3313.539; 3313.5310; 3314.142; 3314.145; 3707.511; 3707.52; OHSAA Concussion Regulations.*