

CONCUSSIONS AND STUDENT ATHLETES

Code **JLCEF** Issued **9/13**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the identification, management and return to play of student athletes with suspected concussions.

The board recognizes that concussions may be serious and potentially life threatening and that such injury may result in serious consequences later in life if managed improperly. The board is committed to practices that reduce the potential for short-term or long-term effects from such injuries.

Recognition and management

If a coach, athletic trainer, game official or physician suspects that a student athlete under their control has sustained a concussion or brain injury in a practice or in an athletic competition, the student athlete must be removed from practice or competition at that time.

A student athlete who has been removed from play may return to play if, as a result of evaluating the student athlete on site, the athletic trainer, physician, physician assistant (pursuant to scope of practice guidelines) or nurse practitioner (pursuant to a written protocol) determines in his/her best professional judgment that the student athlete does not have any signs or symptoms of a concussion or brain injury.

A student athlete who has been removed from play and evaluated and who is suspected of having a concussion or brain injury may not return to play until he/she has received written medical clearance by a physician.

Teacher notification

A concussion can interfere with school, work, sleep and social interactions. Many athletes who have a concussion will have difficulty in school with short and long-term memory, concentration and organization. Teaching staff should be made aware of a concussed student in order to provide an appropriate learning plan until symptoms clear. The school administration will be responsible for notifying teachers of the presence of a concussed athlete in the classroom.

Concussion management plan

The district will utilize guidelines and procedures developed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the South Carolina Department of Education and other pertinent information to develop and implement a comprehensive and practical concussion management plan for identifying and managing sports-related concussions. The district will utilize this plan to inform and educate coaches, student athletes and their parents/legal guardians of the nature and risk of concussions, including the dangers associated with continuing to play after a concussion.

Information to parents/legal guardians

The district annually will distribute the concussion information sheet JLCEF-E to all coaches, volunteers, student athletes and their parents/legal guardians. The concussion information sheet

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will provide information on the nature and risk of concussion and brain injury and on the risks associated with continuing to play after a concussion or brain injury.

The parent/legal guardian's receipt of the information sheet will be documented in writing or by electronic means before the student athlete is permitted to participate in an athletic competition or practice.

For purposes of this policy, student athlete as defined in state law includes cheerleaders.

Adopted 9/10/13

Legal references:

- A. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:
 - 1. Section 59-63-75 et seq. – Concussions and student athletes.