

Dyer County Board of Education

Descriptor Term:

Concussion Policy

Descriptor Code:

IDED

Board Approved:

5/10/21

Rescinds:

IDED

Board Approved:

4/1/14

1 A concussion is a traumatic brain injury caused by a direct or indirect blow to the head or body. In order
2 to ensure the safety of the students that participate in interscholastic athletics, it is imperative that student
3 athletes, coaches, and parents are educated about the nature and treatment of sports related concussions.
4 The Board recognizes that concussions can be a serious health issue and should be treated as such.

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6 The Board adopts the guidelines and other pertinent information and forms developed by the Tennessee
7 Department of Health and the Tennessee Department of Education to inform and educate coaches, school
8 administrators, student athletes, and parent(s)/guardian(s) of the nature, risk and symptoms of
9 concussions and head injuries. These guidelines and materials may be viewed on the Department of
10 Health's website and shall be made available to interested parties through the Central Office.

11
12 This policy shall govern all activities and those individuals involved in those activities which constitute
13 an organized athletic game or competition against another team or in practice or preparation for an
14 organized game or competition. It does not govern those activities or individuals involved in those
15 activities which are entered into for instructional purposes only or those that are incidental to a
16 nonathletic program or lesson.

17 REQUIRED TRAINING¹

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20 The director of schools shall ensure that each school's athletic director and coaches, employed or
21 volunteer, annually complete the Concussion in Sports – What You Need to Know online course. This
22 course may be accessed online at www.nfhslearn.com.

23
24 Prior to the annual initiation of practice or competition, the following persons must review and sign a
25 concussion and head injury information sheet approved by the Tennessee Department of Health; the
26 director of schools, licensed healthcare professionals (if appointed), each school athletic director, and
27 each coach, employed or volunteer.

28
29 In addition, prior to the annual initiation of practice or competition, all athletes and the athlete's
30 parent/guardian must review a concussion and head injury information sheet which shall be
31 electronically signed on the student's sports physical, if the athlete is 18 years of age or older; or by the
32 athlete's parent/guardian, for athletes younger than 18 years of age.

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34 All documentation of the completion of a concussion recognition and head injury safety education course
35 program and signed concussion and head injury information sheets shall be maintained for a period of
36 three (3) years.

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REMOVAL FROM ATHLETICS²

Any student athlete who shows signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the activity or competition for evaluation by a licensed health care professional, if available, and, if not, by the coach or other designated individuals.

No student athlete who has been removed from an athletic activity or competition due to a concussion or suspected concussion shall be allowed to return to any supervised team activities involving physical exertion, including games, competitions, or practices, until the student athlete has been evaluated by and received written clearance on forms approved by the Department of Health from a licensed health care provider for a full or graduated return. "Health care provider" means a Tennessee licensed medical doctor (M.D.), osteopathic physician (D.O.), a clinical neuropsychologist with concussion training, or a physician's assistant (P.A.) with concussion training who is a member of a health care team supervised by a Tennessee licensed medical doctor or osteopathic physician.³

Legal References

- 1. TCA 68-55-502
- 2. Id.
- 3. TCA 68-55-501(3)