

PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTING BOARD POLICY: STUDENT ATHLETE CONCUSSIONS **8600
AND HEAD INJURIES Page 1 of 3 pages**

Section A - Definitions

1. **Concussion** - A type of traumatic brain injury caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head that alters the way the brain normally functions. A concussion can also occur from a blow to the body that causes the head to move rapidly back and forth. These injuries may or may not cause a loss of consciousness. See *Concussion in Sports*, www.cdc.gov/concussion/sports/index.html. This site contains resources for the recognition, response, and prevention of concussions. The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) website contains comprehensive resources that State law requires schools use to educate coaches, student athletes, and parents/guardians. These are available at:
www.ihsa.org/Resources/SportsMedicine/ConcussionManagement/SchoolResources.aspx.

2. **Student athlete** - A student who has participated in one or more practices and/or interscholastic athletic contests in any sport offered by or under the auspices of a high school. This definition is from the IHSA’s by-laws, www.ihsa.org/AbouttheIHSA/ConstitutionBylawsPolicies.aspx. All Illinois school boards, even those that currently have no *student athletes*, are required to adopt a student athlete concussion and head injury policy that is in compliance with IHSA protocols, policies, and by-laws (105 ILCS 5/10-20.53, added by P.A. 97-204). This administrative procedure implements Board policy 8600, *Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries*.

Section B – Personnel Responsibilities

Actor	Action
Superintendent or Designee	<p>Identify the staff members who are responsible for student athletes, including Building Principals, and require that they comply with IHSA concussion protocols, policies, and by-laws, including its <i>Protocol for NFHS Concussion Playing Rules</i>, and its <i>Return to Play Policy</i>. Available at: www.ihsa.org/Resources/SportsMedicine/ConcussionManagement/SchoolResources.aspx.</p> <p>Hold the identified staff members responsible for implementing this procedure.</p>
Building Principals or Designee	<p>Instruct coaches, athletic trainers, and other staff members who are responsible for student athletes to review and abide by the IHSA protocols, policies, and by-laws regarding concussions and head injuries. Such protocols, policies and by-laws are available at: www.ihsa.org/Resources/SportsMedicine/ConcussionManagement.aspx.</p> <p>Require that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (e.g., loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) in a practice or interscholastic contest is removed from participation or competition at that time. 2. A student athlete who has been removed from an interscholastic contest or practice for a possible concussion or head injury is not allowed to return to that interscholastic contest or practice unless cleared to do so by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer.

Actor	Action
<p>Building Principals or Designee (Continued)</p>	<p>3. If not cleared to return to that interscholastic contest or practice, a student athlete is not allowed to return to play or practice until the student athlete has provided his or her school with written clearance from a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer working in conjunction with a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois.</p> <p>4. Once removed from an interscholastic contest, the student shall be expected to follow the directions of the doctor or certified athletic trainer.</p> <p>Place all written information concerning an injury to a student athlete, including without limitation, a return-to-play clearance from a student’s physician or an athletic trainer, in the student’s school student record.</p>
<p>Building Principals, Coaches, Athletic Directors and Athletic Trainers (and other staff members who are responsible for student athletes)</p>	<p>Inform student athletes and their parents/guardians about Board policy 8600, <i>Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries, Agreement to Participate</i>, which a student athlete and his or her parent/guardian are required to sign before the student is allowed to participate in a practice or interscholastic competition.</p> <p>Inform student athletes and their parents/guardians about concussions and head injuries by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Giving them a copy of the IHSA’s <i>Concussion Information Sheet</i> at the time they sign, <i>Agreement to Participate</i>, which a student athlete and his or her parent/guardian are required to sign before the student is allowed to participate in a practice or interscholastic contest. The <i>Concussion Information Sheet</i>, and <i>Sign-off form</i>, are at www.ihsa.org/Resources/SportsMedicine/ConcussionManagement/ParentGuardianResources.aspx. Using educational material provided by IHSA and District 225 to educate student athletes and parents/guardians about the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries, including the risks inherent in continuing to play after a concussion or head injury. See www.ihsa.org/Resources/SportsMedicine/ConcussionManagement.aspx. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention offers free printed educational materials on concussions that can be ordered or downloaded and distributed to parents, students, and coaches. These materials are available at: www.cdc.gov/concussion/. <p>Follow the IHSA concussion management guidelines. Available at: www.ihsa.org/Resources/SportsMedicine/ConcussionManagement.aspx. These guidelines, in summary, require that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (e.g., loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) in a practice or interscholastic contest shall be removed from participation or competition at that time. A student athlete who has been removed from an interscholastic contest or practice for a possible concussion or head injury may not return to that interscholastic contest or practice unless cleared to do so by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer.

Actor	Action
Building Principals, Coaches, Athletic Directors, and Athletic Trainers (and other staff members who are responsible for student athletes) (Continued)	3. If not cleared to return to that interscholastic contest or practice, a student athlete may not return to play or practice until the student athlete has provided his or her school with written clearance from a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer working in conjunction with a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois. Learn concussion symptoms and danger signs. A discussion of such symptoms and signs is available at: www.ihsa.org/Resources/SportsMedicine/ConcussionManagement/CoachingResources.aspx . Understand before the season begins how to respond if a student athlete exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (e.g., loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) in a practice or game. Do not assess a head injury; instead, take the student athlete out of play and seek the advice of a health care professional. Inform the student athlete’s parent/guardian about a possible concussion and give the parent/guardian a fact sheet on concussion. Such a fact sheet is available at: www.ihsa.org/Resources/SportsMedicine/ConcussionManagement/ParentGuardianResources.aspx .

Section C – Agreement to Participate

The Superintendent is directed to develop forms for participation in interscholastic and intramural activities to be signed annually by the student and parent(s).

Adopted: November 12, 2013
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