



Updated 4-4-2012

Approved by Athletic Committee 5-5-2012

Head Injury Procedures for all Staff, Coaches, and Volunteers

In the case that any staff member, coach or volunteer becomes aware that, or suspicious that, a student has suffered a head injury their response should be:

1. Take emergency medical action immediately if the injury occurs while the student is injured in his/her presence
2. Not allow the student to participate in any further in athletic practices, games or other physical exertion
3. Inform the parent/guardian of the student that his/her son/daughter will not be allowed to return to participation until cleared by the family's physician
4. Inform the parent/guardian that after cleared by the family's physician that his/her son/daughter will need to follow the concussion protocol for return to activity, they should be informed that this takes at least 5 days and that her/her son/daughter recovery time may take longer
5. Inform the school nurse and athletic director of the injury or suspicion of injury as soon as possible, and no later than the next school day
6. Require that the student provide a copy in writing of the physician's release, verbal notifications from parents or students is not acceptable
7. Follow the "return to activity" guidelines, and make notes of observations of the students as they return to activity gradually over the recommended timeline
8. If any symptoms are exhibited during the "return to activity" period, return to step 1

The intent of these procedures is to ensure the safety of the student in the long term. Returning to play too early after a head injury can have life long health repercussions up to an including death. It is the responsibility of the staff member, coach or volunteer to help the student and his/her parent/guardian understand that although we would all like the student to return to play as soon as possible it is in the student's best interest to return to play cautiously following the District's procedures, and the NYSHSAA's recommended "return to activity" procedures and timelines.