

POLICY

STAFFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions
and Head Injuries

2431.4 PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF SPORTS-RELATED CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES

A concussion is a traumatic brain injury caused by a direct or indirect blow to the head or body. In order to ensure the safety of pupils that participate in athletic activities, including gym, it is imperative that students, staff, and parents are educated about the nature and treatment of concussions and other head injuries. Allowing a student to return to play before recovering from a concussion increases the chance of a more serious brain injury.

Every school district that participates in athletics is required to adopt a policy concerning the prevention and treatment of concussions and other head injuries among students in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.1 et seq. For the purpose of this Policy, "athletics" shall be Kindergarten through sixth grade school-sponsored athletic programs. The Stafford Township School District does not have an interscholastic athletic program. However, its students do participate in athletic activities as part of its curricular (physical education class) and co-curricular programs. In addition, the Stafford Township Board of Education allows recreational groups to use its facilities after school hours. Accordingly, the Board of Education believes it is important to establish policies and procedures to address this important issue.

Any student who exhibits the signs or symptoms of a concussion or other head injury during an athletic event/activity shall be immediately removed from play/activity and may not return to play/activity that day. The student will be taken to the nurse's office and the nurse will follow the school physician's standing orders regarding concussions and head injuries. Emergency medical assistance shall be contacted when symptoms get worse, loss of consciousness, direct neck pain associated with the injury, or any other sign the supervising school staff member determines emergency medical attention is needed. The student's parent/guardian will be contacted by the nurse and/or principal.

A student who participates in athletic events and who sustains or is suspected of sustaining a concussion or other head injury shall be required to have a medical examination conducted by their physician or licensed health care provider. The student's physician or licensed health care provider shall be trained in the evaluation and management of concussions to determine the presence or absence of a concussion or head injury. The student's physician or licensed health care provider must provide to the school district a written medical release/clearance for the student indicating when the student is able to return to the athletic activity. The medical release/clearance must indicate the student is asymptomatic at rest and either may return to the athletic activity because the injury was not a concussion or other head injury. A medical release/clearance not in compliance with this Policy will



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not be accepted. The medical release/clearance may be reviewed and approved by the school physician.

The school district shall provide a copy of this Policy and Regulation 2431.4 to all youth sports team organizations that operate on school grounds. In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.5, the school district shall not be liable for the injury or death of a person due to the action or inaction of persons employed by, or under contract with, a youth sports team organization that operates on school grounds, if the youth sports team organization provides the school district proof of an insurance policy in the amount of not less than \$50,000 per person, per occurrence insuring the youth sports team organization against liability for any bodily injury suffered by a person and a statement of compliance with the school district's Policy and Regulation 2431.4 - Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries. For the purposes of this Policy a "youth sports team organization" means one or more sports teams organized pursuant to a nonprofit or similar charter or which are member teams in a league organized by or affiliated with a county or municipal recreation department. For more information please also see Policy and Regulation 7510 – Use of School Facilities.

This Policy and Regulation shall be reviewed and approved by the school physician and shall be reviewed annually, and updated as necessary, to ensure it reflects the most current information available on the prevention, risk, and treatment of concussion and other head injuries.

N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.1; 18A:40-41.2; 18A:40-41.3; 18A:40-41.4;
18A:40-41.5

Adopted: 11 October 2012

