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WEST ELIZABETH - JEFFERSON HILLS - PLEASANT HILLS

## **POLICY 123.1 – HEAD INJURIES / ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES**

### **1. Purpose**

The School Board believes proper management of concussions and traumatic brain injury is absolutely necessary to promote safety in youth sports and must be an integral part of all athletic activities.

### **2. Definitions**

For purposes of this policy, athletic activities shall include interscholastic athletics as defined by the School Code and Board policy, other athletic contests or competitions sponsored by, or associated with, a school, including cheerleading, club and school-affiliated, organization-sponsored sports activities, noncompetitive cheerleading sponsored by, or associated with, a school, and all practices, interschool practices and scrimmages for any of the referenced activities.

For purposes of this policy, appropriate medical professional shall mean licensed physicians who are trained in the evaluation and management of concussions, licensed or certified health care professionals trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and designated by such licensed physicians, or licensed psychologists neuropsychologically trained in the evaluation and management of concussions or who have postdoctoral training neuropsychology and specific training in the evaluation and management of concussions.

### **3. Authority**

It shall be the policy of the Board to require the annual distribution of concussion and traumatic brain injury information to all current and prospective athletes and their families. The Board requires immediate removal from play if a head injury is suspected and requires medical clearance prior to return to play. The Board further requires training for all coaches and will impose penalties for violating this policy.

### **4. Delegation of Responsibility**

The Superintendent or designee, the Athletic Director, shall implement all of the guidelines set forth by this policy.

### **5. Guidelines**

#### **A. Educational Materials**

Beginning July 1, 2012, the Superintendent or designee shall annually distribute the concussion and traumatic brain injury materials published by the Department of

Health and Department of Education to all current prospective student athletes and their parents and require a signed acknowledgement to be returned to the school by every student and his/her guardian prior to participating in any athletic activity.

B. Removal from Play

A student shall be immediately removed from an athletic activity if a game official, coach from the student's team, certified athletic trainer, licensed physician, licensed physical therapist or their official designated by the student's school entity, determines that the student exhibits signs or symptoms of a concussion or traumatic brain injury while participating in an athletic activity.

C. Return to Play

Students who are removed from play after exhibiting signs or symptoms of a concussion or traumatic brain injury or students who are diagnosed with a concussion or traumatic brain injury shall not return to play until they have been cleared by an appropriate medical professional.

D. Mandatory Training

Once each school year, every coach appointed by the Board shall complete a concussion management certification training course offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Federation of State High School Associations or another provider approved by the Department of Health. A coach shall not be permitted to coach an athletic activity until this training course is completed.

E. Penalties

Effective July 1, 2014, the Board establishes the following minimum penalties for any coach found in violation of subsection B. – Removal from Play, or subsection C. – Return to Play:

1. For a first violation, suspension from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season.
2. For a second violation, suspension from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season and for the next season.
3. For a third violation, permanent suspension from coaching any school athletic activity.