



SAINT DOMINIC ACADEMY
Empowering Women for Leadership Since 1878

Re: PHYSICALS

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Mandated by state law, **All STUDENTS** are required to have a current up to date physical on file. All Students and Student Athletes **MUST** submit the completed Health Pack to SDA **prior to August 1st** of the current registration year.

The required forms can be accessed on our Saint Dominic Academy website under the Athletics tab>Health Pack. They are also found under the Parents tab> Forms/Notices>Health Pack.

In order to be compliant with the state, the Physician completing the Physical **MUST** complete the Cardiac Assessment Module. The date of completion of the module and signature of the physician must be present on the clearance form of the physical.

Along with the Pre-Participation Physical Exam, there is a pamphlet on "Sudden Cardiac Death", "Concussion and Head Injury Fact Sheet" and "NJSIAA Steroid Testing Policy". The readings/links are for your information and are available on the website.

Along with this provided information are **CONSENT FORMS** that **MUST** be signed by Parent/Guardian and Student for your child to participate in SDA interscholastic activities and Sports.

ALL Students are **REQUIRED** to complete Cardiac and Concussion Consent Forms.

ALL Athletes **MUST** complete Cardiac, Concussion and Steroid Consent Forms.

Students will **NOT** be permitted to tryout/practice or participate in any SDA activity without a fully completed Health Pack submitted to the Nurses Office.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Donna Butto RN

School Nurse

PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FORM

Name _____ Date of birth _____

PHYSICIAN REMINDERS

- Consider additional questions on more sensitive issues
 - Do you feel stressed out or under a lot of pressure?
 - Do you ever feel sad, hopeless, depressed, or anxious?
 - Do you feel safe at your home or residence?
 - Have you ever tried cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip?
 - During the past 30 days, did you use chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip?
 - Do you drink alcohol or use any other drugs?
 - Have you ever taken anabolic steroids or used any other performance supplement?
 - Have you ever taken any supplements to help you gain or lose weight or improve your performance?
 - Do you wear a seat belt, use a helmet, and use condoms?
- Consider reviewing questions on cardiovascular symptoms (questions 5–14).

EXAMINATION		
Height _____	Weight _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
BP _____ / _____ (_____ / _____)	Pulse _____	Vision R 20/ _____ L 20/ _____ Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N
MEDICAL	NORMAL	ABNORMAL FINDINGS
Appearance • Marfan stigmata (kyphoscoliosis, high-arched palate, pectus excavatum, arachnodactyly, arm span > height, hyperlaxity, myopia, MVP, aortic insufficiency)		
Eyes/ears/nose/throat • Pupils equal • Hearing		
Lymph nodes		
Heart* • Murmurs (auscultation standing, supine, +/- Valsalva) • Location of point of maximal impulse (PMI)		
Pulses • Simultaneous femoral and radial pulses		
Lungs		
Abdomen		
Genitourinary (males only)*		
Skin • HSV, lesions suggestive of MRSA, tinea corporis		
Neurologic†		
MUSCULOSKELETAL		
Neck		
Back		
Shoulder/arm		
Elbow/forearm		
Wrist/hand/fingers		
Hip/thigh		
Knee		
Leg/ankle		
Foot/toes		
Functional • Duck-walk, single leg hop		

*Consider ECG, echocardiogram, and referral to cardiology for abnormal cardiac history or exam.
 †Consider GU exam if in private setting. Having third party present is recommended.
 ‡Consider cognitive evaluation or baseline neuropsychiatric testing if a history of significant concussion.

- Cleared for all sports without restriction
- Cleared for all sports without restriction with recommendations for further evaluation or treatment for _____
- Not cleared
- Pending further evaluation
 - For any sports
 - For certain sports _____
- Reason _____
- Recommendations _____

I have examined the above-named student and completed the preparticipation physical evaluation. The athlete does not present apparent clinical contraindications to practice and participate in the sport(s) as outlined above. A copy of the physical exam is on record in my office and can be made available to the school at the request of the parents. If conditions arise after the athlete has been cleared for participation, a physician may rescind the clearance until the problem is resolved and the potential consequences are completely explained to the athlete (and parents/guardians).

Name of physician, advanced practice nurse (APN), physician assistant (PA) (print/type) _____ Date _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 Signature of physician, APN, PA _____

■ PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION CLEARANCE FORM

Name _____ Sex M F Age _____ Date of birth _____

Cleared for all sports without restriction

Cleared for all sports without restriction with recommendations for further evaluation or treatment for _____

Not cleared

Pending further evaluation

For any sports

For certain sports _____

Reason _____

Recommendations _____

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Allergies _____

Other information _____

I have examined the above-named student and completed the preparticipation physical evaluation. The athlete does not present apparent clinical contraindications to practice and participate in the sport(s) as outlined above. A copy of the physical exam is on record in my office and can be made available to the school at the request of the parents. If conditions arise after the athlete has been cleared for participation, the physician may rescind the clearance until the problem is resolved and the potential consequences are completely explained to the athlete (and parents/guardians).

Name of physician, advanced practice nurse (APN), physician assistant (PA) _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Signature of physician, APN, PA _____

Completed Cardiac Assessment Professional Development Module

Date _____ Signature _____

■ PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION THE ATHLETE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: SUPPLEMENTAL HISTORY FORM

Date of Exam _____
 Name _____ Date of birth _____
 Sex _____ Age _____ Grade _____ School _____ Sport(s) _____

1. Type of disability		
2. Date of disability		
3. Classification (if available)		
4. Cause of disability (birth, disease, accident/trauma, other)		
5. List the sports you are interested in playing		
6. Do you regularly use a brace, assistive device, or prosthetic?	Yes	No
7. Do you use any special brace or assistive device for sports?		
8. Do you have any rashes, pressure sores, or any other skin problems?		
9. Do you have a hearing loss? Do you use a hearing aid?		
10. Do you have a visual impairment?		
11. Do you use any special devices for bowel or bladder function?		
12. Do you have burning or discomfort when urinating?		
13. Have you had autonomic dysreflexia?		
14. Have you ever been diagnosed with a heat-related (hyperthermia) or cold-related (hypothermia) illness?		
15. Do you have muscle spasticity?		
16. Do you have frequent seizures that cannot be controlled by medication?		

Explain "yes" answers here

Please indicate if you have ever had any of the following.

	Yes	No
Atlantoaxial instability		
X-ray evaluation for atlantoaxial instability		
Dislocated joints (more than one)		
Easy bleeding		
Enlarged spleen		
Hepatitis		
Osteopenia or osteoporosis		
Difficulty controlling bowel		
Difficulty controlling bladder		
Numbness or tingling in arms or hands		
Numbness or tingling in legs or feet		
Weakness in arms or hands		
Weakness in legs or feet		
Recent change in coordination		
Recent change in ability to walk		
Spina bifida		
Latex allergy		

Explain "yes" answers here

I hereby state that, to the best of my knowledge, my answers to the above questions are complete and correct.

Signature of athlete _____ Signature of parent/guardian _____ Date _____

HEALTH HISTORY UPDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of School _____

To participate on a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad, each student whose physical examination was completed more than 90 days prior to the first day of official practice shall provide a health history update questionnaire completed and signed by the student's parent or guardian.

Student _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Date of Last Physical Examination _____ Sport _____

Since the last pre-participation physical examination, has your son/daughter:

1. Been medically advised not to participate in a sport? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, describe in detail _____

2. Sustained a concussion, been unconscious or lost memory from a blow to the head? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, explain in detail _____

3. Broken a bone or sprained/strained/dislocated any muscle or joints? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, describe in detail _____

4. Fainted or "blacked out?" Yes _____ No _____

If yes, was this during or immediately after exercise? _____

5. Experienced chest pains, shortness of breath or "racing heart?" Yes _____ No _____

If yes, explain _____

6. Has there been a recent history of fatigue and unusual tiredness? Yes _____ No _____

7. Been hospitalized or had to go to the emergency room? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, explain in detail _____

8. Since the last physical examination, has there been a sudden death in the family or has any member of the family under age 50 had a heart attack or "heart trouble?" Yes _____

9. Started or stopped taking any over-the-counter or prescribed medications? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, name of medication(s) _____

Date: _____ Signature of parent/guardian _____

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO THE SCHOOL NURSE'S OFFICE

Sudden Cardiac Death Pamphlet
Sign-Off Sheet

Name of School District: _____

Name of Local School: _____

I/We acknowledge that we received and reviewed the Sudden Cardiac Death in Young Athletes pamphlet.

Student Signature: _____

Parent or Guardian
Signature: _____

Date: _____



NJSIAA STEROID TESTING POLICY
CONSENT TO RANDOM TESTING

By signing below, we consent to random testing in accordance with the NJSIAA steroid testing policy. We understand that, if the student or the student's team qualifies for a state championship tournament or state championship competition, the student may be subject to testing for banned substances.

_____	_____	_____
Signature of Student-Athlete	Print Student-Athlete's Name	Date
_____	_____	_____
Signature of Parent/Guardian	Print Parent/Guardian's Name	Date

NJSIAA PARENT/GUARDIAN
CONCUSSION POLICY ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

By signing below, we agree to abide by the NJSIAA Concussion Policy. We have read and understand the risks associated with continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of a concussion.

_____	_____	_____
Signature of Student-Athlete	Print Student-Athlete's Name	Date
_____	_____	_____
Signature of Parent/Guardian	Print Parent/Guardian's Name	Date



1161 Route 130, P.O. Box 487, Robbinsville, NJ 08691 609-259-2776 609-259-3047-Fax

NJSIAA STEROID TESTING POLICY

CONSENT TO RANDOM TESTING

In Executive Order 72, issued December 20, 2005, Governor Richard Codey directed the New Jersey Department of Education to work in conjunction with the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) to develop and implement a program of random testing for steroids, of teams and individuals qualifying for championship games.

Beginning in the Fall, 2006 sports season, any student-athlete who possesses, distributes, ingests or otherwise uses any of the banned substances on the attached page, without written prescription by a fully-licensed physician, as recognized by the American Medical Association, to treat a medical condition, violates the NJSIAA's sportsmanship rule, and is subject to NJSIAA penalties, including ineligibility from competition.

Athletes may submit supplements and medications to Drug Free Sport AXIS to receive information regarding banned substances or safety issues. Athletes or parents may login to the NJSIAA account at www.dfsaxis.com using the password "njsports".

The NJSIAA will test certain randomly selected individuals and teams that qualify for a state championship tournament or state championship competition for banned substances. The results of all tests shall be considered confidential and shall only be disclosed to the student, his or her parents and his or her school. No student may participate in NJSIAA competition unless the student and the student's parent/guardian consent to random testing.

By signing below, we consent to random testing in accordance with the NJSIAA steroid testing policy. We understand that, if the student or the student's team qualifies for a state championship tournament or state championship competition, the student may be subject to testing for banned substances.

Signature of Student-Athlete

Print Student-Athlete's Name

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Print Parent/Guardian's Name

Date

Website Resources

- Sudden Death in Athletes
www.cardiachealth.org/sudden-death-in-athletes
- Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association
www.4hcm.org
- American Heart Association www.heart.org

Collaborating Agencies:

American Academy of Pediatrics

New Jersey Chapter
3836 Quakerbridge Road, Suite 108
Hamilton, NJ 08619
(p) 609-842-0014
(f) 609-842-0015
www.aapnj.org



American Heart Association

1 Union Street, Suite 301
Robbinsville, NJ, 08691
(p) 609-208-0020
www.heart.org



New Jersey Department of Education

PO Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500
(p) 609-292-5935
www.state.nj.us/education/



New Jersey Department of Health

P. O. Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360
(p) 609-292-7837
www.state.nj.us/health

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SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN YOUNG ATHLETES

The Basic Facts on Sudden Cardiac Death in Young Athletes

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



American Heart Association

Learn and Live



SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN YOUNG ATHLETES

Sudden death in young athletes between the ages of 10 and 19 is very rare. What, if anything, can be done to prevent this kind of tragedy?



What is sudden cardiac death in the young athlete?

Sudden cardiac death is the result of an unexpected failure of proper heart function, usually (about 60% of the time) during or immediately after exercise without trauma. Since the heart stops pumping adequately, the athlete quickly collapses, loses consciousness, and ultimately dies unless normal heart rhythm is restored using an automated external defibrillator (AED).

How common is sudden death in young athletes?

Sudden cardiac death in young athletes is very rare. About 100 such deaths are reported in the United States per year. The chance of sudden death occurring to any individual high school athlete is about one in 200,000 per year.

Sudden cardiac death is more common: in males than in females; in football and basketball than in other sports; and in African-Americans than in other races and ethnic groups.

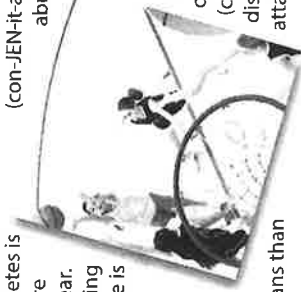
What are the most common causes?

Research suggests that the main cause is a loss of proper heart rhythm, causing the heart to quiver instead of pumping blood to the brain and body. This is called ventricular fibrillation (ven-TRICK-you-lar fib-roo-LAY-shun). The problem is usually caused by one of several cardiovascular abnormalities and electrical diseases of the heart that go unnoticed in healthy-appearing athletes.

The most common cause of sudden death in an athlete is hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (hi-per-TRO-fic CAR-dee-oh-my-OP-a-thee) also called HCM. HCM is a disease of the heart, with abnormal thickening of the heart muscle, which can cause serious heart rhythm problems and blockages to blood flow. This genetic disease runs in families and usually develops gradually over many years.

The second most likely cause is congenital (con-JEN-it-ai) (i.e., present from birth) abnormalities of the coronary

arteries. This means that these blood vessels are connected to the main blood vessel of the heart in an abnormal way. This differs from blockages that may occur when people get older (commonly called "coronary artery disease," which may lead to a heart attack).



SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN YOUNG ATHLETES

Other diseases of the heart that can lead to sudden death in young people include:

- Myocarditis (my-oh-car-DIE-tis), an acute inflammation of the heart muscle (usually due to a virus).
- Dilated cardiomyopathy, an enlargement of the heart for unknown reasons.
- Long QT syndrome and other electrical abnormalities of the heart which cause abnormal fast heart rhythms that can also run in families.
- Marfan syndrome, an inherited disorder that affects heart valves, walls of major arteries, eyes and the skeleton. It is generally seen in unusually tall athletes, especially if being tall is not common in other family members.

Are there warning signs to watch for?

In more than a third of these sudden cardiac deaths, there were warning signs that were not reported or taken seriously. Warning signs are:

- Fainting, a seizure or convulsions during physical activity;
- Fainting or a seizure from emotional excitement, emotional distress or being startled;
- Dizziness or lightheadedness, especially during exertion;
- Chest pains, at rest or during exertion;

- Palpitations - awareness of the heart beating unusually (skipping, irregular or extra beats) during athletics or during cool down periods after athletic participation;
- Fatigue or tiring more quickly than peers; or
- Being unable to keep up with friends due to shortness of breath.

What are the current recommendations for screening young athletes?

New Jersey requires all school athletes to be examined by their primary care physician ("medical home") or school physician at least once per year. The New Jersey Department of Education requires use of the specific Annual Athletic Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form.

This process begins with the parents and student-athletes answering questions about symptoms during exercise (such as chest pain, dizziness, fainting, palpitations or shortness of breath); and questions about family health history.

The primary healthcare provider needs to know if any family member died suddenly during physical activity or during a seizure. They also need to know if anyone in the family under the age of 50 had an unexplained sudden death such as drowning or car accidents. This information must be provided annually for each exam because it is so essential to identify those at risk for sudden cardiac death.

The required physical exam includes measurement of blood pressure and a careful listening examination of the heart, especially for murmurs and rhythm abnormalities. If there are no warning signs reported on the health history and no abnormalities discovered on exam, no further evaluation or testing is recommended.

When should a student athlete see a heart specialist?

If the primary healthcare provider or school physician has concerns, a referral to a child heart specialist, a pediatric cardiologist, is recommended. This specialist will perform a more thorough evaluation, including an electrocardiogram (ECG), which is a graph of the electrical activity of the heart. An echocardiogram, which is an ultrasound test to allow for direct visualization of the heart structure, will likely also be done. The specialist may also order a treadmill exercise test and a monitor to enable a longer recording of the heart rhythm. None of the testing is invasive or uncomfortable.

Can sudden cardiac death be prevented just through proper screening?

A proper evaluation should find most, but not all, conditions that would cause sudden death in the athlete. This is because some diseases are difficult to uncover and may only develop later in life. Others can develop following a normal screening evaluation, such as an infection of the heart muscle from a virus.

This is why screening evaluations and a review of the family health history need to be performed on a yearly basis by the athlete's primary healthcare provider. With proper screening and evaluation, most cases can be identified and prevented.

Why have an AED on site during sporting events?

The only effective treatment for ventricular fibrillation is immediate use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). An AED can restore the heart back into a normal rhythm. An AED is also life-saving for ventricular fibrillation caused by a blow to the chest over the heart (commotio cordis).

Effective September 1, 2014, the New Jersey Department of Education requires that all public and nonpublic schools grades K through 12 shall:

- Have an AED available at every sports event (three minutes total time to reach and return with the AED);
- Have adequate personnel who are trained in AED use present at practices and games;
- Have coaches and athletic trainers trained in basic life support techniques (CPR); and
- Call 911 immediately while someone is retrieving the AED.



NJSIAA STEROID TESTING POLICY AND PARENT/GUARDIAN CONCUSSION POLICY ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORMS

NJSIAA STEROID TESTING POLICY CONSENT TO RANDOM TESTING

In Executive Order 72, issued December 20, 2005, Governor Richard Codey directed the New Jersey Department of Education to work in conjunction with the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) to develop and implement a program of random testing for steroids, of teams and individuals qualifying for championship games.

Beginning in the Fall, 2006 sports season, any student-athlete who possesses, distributes, ingests or otherwise uses any of the banned substances on the attached page, without written prescription by a fully-licensed physician, as recognized by the American Medical Association, to treat a medical condition, violates the NJSIAA's sportsmanship rule, and is subject to NJSIAA penalties, including ineligibility from competition. The NJSIAA will test certain randomly selected individuals and teams that qualify for a state championship tournament or state championship competition for banned substances. The results of all tests shall be considered confidential and shall only be disclosed to the student, his or her parents and his or her school. No student may participate in NJSIAA competition unless the student and the student's parent/guardian consent to random testing.

NJSIAA Banned-Drug Classes 2012 - 2013

The term "related compounds" comprises substances that are included in the class by their pharmacological action and/or chemical structure. No substance belonging to the prohibited class may be used, regardless of whether it is specifically listed as an example.

Many nutritional/dietary supplements contain NJSIAA banned substances. In addition, the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not strictly regulate the supplement industry; therefore purity and safety of nutritional dietary supplements cannot be guaranteed. Impure supplements may lead to a positive NJSIAA drug test. **The use of supplements is at the student-athlete's own risk.** Student-athletes should contact their physician or athletic trainer for further information.

The following is a list of banned-drug classes, with examples of banned substances under each class:

(a) Stimulants

Amiphenazole
amphetamine
bemigrade
benzphetamine
bromantan
caffeine¹ (guarana)
chlorphentermine
cocaine
cropropamide
crothetamide
diethylpropion
dimethylamphetamine
doxapram
ephedrine
(ephedra, ma huang)
ethamivan
ethylamphetamine
fencamfamine
meclofenoxate
methamphetamine
methylenedioxymethamphetamine
(MDMA, ecstasy)
methylphenidate
nikethamide
pemoline
pentetrazol
phendimetrazine
phenmetrazine
phentermine
phenylpropanolamine
picrotoxine
pipradol
prolintane
strychnine
synephrine
(citrus aurantium, zhi shi, bitter orange)
and related compounds

(b) Anabolic Agents

anabolic steroids
androstenediol
androstenedione
boldenone
clostebol
dehydrochloromethyl-
testosterone
dehydroepiandro-
sterone (DHEA)
dihydrotestosterone (DHT)
dromostanolone
epitrenbolone
fluoxymesterone
gestrinone
mesterolone
methandienone
methenolone
methyltestosterone
nandrolone
norandrostenediol
norandrostenedione
norethandrolone
oxandrolone
oxymesterone
oxymetholone
stanozolol
testosterone²
tetrahydrogestrinone
(THG)
trenbolone
and related compounds

other anabolic agents

(c) Diuretics

acetazolamide
bendroflumethiazide
benzhiazole
bumetanide
chlorothiazide
chlorthalidone
ethacrynic acid
flumethiazide
furosemide
hydrochlorothiazide
hydroflumethiazide
methyclothiazide
metolazone
polythiazide
quinethazone
spironolactone
triamterene
trichlormethiazide
and related compounds

(d) Peptide Hormones & Analogues:

corticotrophin (ACTH)
human chorionic gonadotrophin (hCG)
leutenizing hormone (LH)
growth hormone (HGH, somatotrophin)
insulin like growth hormone (IGF-1)

All the respective releasing factors of the above-mentioned substances also are banned:
erythropoietin (EPO)
darbypoetin
sermorelin

(e) Definitions of positive depends on the following:

1 for caffeine – if the concentration in urine exceeds 15 micrograms/ml

2 for testosterone -- if administration of testosterone or use of any other manipulation has the result of increasing the ratio of the total concentration of testosterone to that of epitestosterone in the urine of greater than 6:1, unless there is evidence that this ratio is due to a physiological or pathological condition.



NJSIAA PARENT/GUARDIAN CONCUSSION POLICY ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

In order to help protect the student athletes of New Jersey, the NJSIAA has mandated that all athletes, parents/guardians and coaches follow the NJSIAA Concussion Policy.

A concussion is a brain injury and all brain injuries are serious. They may be caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. They can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Even though most concussions are mild, **all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly.** In other words, even a “ding” or bump on the head could be serious. You can’t see a concussion and most sports concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Signs and symptoms of concussion may show up right after the injury or can take hours or days to fully appear. If your child/player reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms or signs of concussion yourself, seek medical attention right away.

Symptoms may include one or more of the following:

1. Headache
2. Nausea/vomiting
3. Balance problems or dizziness
4. Double vision or changes in vision
5. Sensitivity to light or sound/noise
6. Feeling of sluggishness or fogginess
7. Difficulty with concentration, short-term memory, and/or confusion
8. Irritability or agitation
9. Depression or anxiety
10. Sleep Disturbance

Signs observed by teammates, parents and coaches include:

1. Appears dazed, stunned, or disoriented
2. Forgets plays or demonstrates short-term memory difficulties (e.g. is unsure of the game, score, or opponent)
3. Exhibits difficulties with balance or coordination
4. Answers questions slowly or inaccurately
5. Loses consciousness
6. Demonstrates behavior or personality changes
7. Is unable to recall events prior to or after the hit

What can happen if my child/player keeps on playing with a concussion or returns too soon?

Athletes with the signs and symptoms of concussion should be removed from play immediately. Continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of a concussion leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury. There is an increased risk of significant damage from a concussion for a period of time after that concussion occurs, particularly if the athlete suffers another concussion before completely recovering from the first one. This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling (second impact syndrome) with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes will often under report symptoms of injuries. And concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key for student-athletes' safety.

If you think your child/player has suffered a concussion

Any athlete even suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the game or practice immediately. No athlete may return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear. Close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours.

An athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from competition at that time and may not return to play until the athlete receives written clearance from a physician trained in the evaluation and management of concussions that states the student athlete is asymptomatic at rest and may begin the graduated return to play protocol. The graduated return to play protocol is a series of six steps, the first being a completion of a full day of normal cognitive activities without re-emergence of symptoms.

Day 2: light aerobic exercise, keeping the student's heart rate <70% max

Day 3: sport specific exercises: running, etc. No head impact activities.

Day 4: non-contact training drills such as passing, shooting. Some progressive resistance training.

Day 5: normal training/practice activities, following medical clearance.

Day 6: return to play involving normal game exertion or game activity.

You should also inform your child's Coach, Athletic Trainer (ATC), and/or Athletic Director, if you think that your child/player may have a concussion. And when in doubt, the athlete sits out.

For current and up-to-date information on concussions you can go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ConcussionInYouthSports>

<http://www.nfhslearn.com>