



MEMBER ALERT

CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

UPDATED: MAY 2016

Concussions and Head Injuries in School Athletic Programs

As of January 2015, California Education Code § 49475 requires the following whenever an athlete is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in an athletic activity:

1. The athlete shall be immediately removed from the athletic activity for the remainder of the day, and shall not be permitted to return to the athletic activity until he or she is evaluated by a licensed health care provider.
2. The athlete shall not be permitted to return to the athletic activity until he or she receives written clearance to return to the athletic activity from a licensed health care provider.
3. If the licensed health care provider determines that the athlete sustained a concussion or a head injury, the athlete shall also complete a graduated return-to-play protocol of no less than seven days in duration under the supervision of a licensed health care provider.

The California Interscholastic Federation has worked in consultation with the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine to develop and adopt rules and protocols to implement this paragraph. <http://www.cifstate.org/sports-medicine/concussions/index>

Additionally, schools are required on a yearly basis, to provide to all parents of athletes, a concussion and head injury information sheet that shall be signed and returned by the athlete and the athlete's parent or guardian before the athlete initiates practice or competition. http://www.cifstate.org/sports-medicine/concussions/CIF_Concussion_Info_Sheet.pdf

According to the Education Code, "licensed health care provider" means a licensed health care provider who is trained in the management of concussions and is acting within the scope of his or her practice.

(c) This section does not apply to an athlete engaging in an athletic activity during the regular school day or as part of a physical education course required.