

WOBURN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HEAD INJURY MANAGEMENT POLICY

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 111 Section 222 and 105 CMR 201.000, Woburn Public Schools has developed a policy and protocol to address the prevention and management of sports and extra-curricular related head injuries within the school district or school. This policy covers all athletics and any extra-curricular activity which has a physical focus. Additionally, the policy and protocol will be applied to all students with head injuries.

Collaboration between students and their families, medical providers, school nurses, teachers, athletic and guidance staff is required for the comprehensive care and management of students with head injuries in the school setting.

Seasonally updated pre-participation health forms are collected and reviewed for every student in grades 6-12 participating in MIAA school-sponsored athletic and extra-curricular activities, with a physical focus, prior to the start of the sports season. All students must submit these forms as a requirement for participation and must have a physical exam, performed within 13 months prior to the start of the sports season, on file in the Nurse's Office.

Concussion training is required and documented annually for all athletic staff and volunteers, school nurses, guidance counselors, students participating in school athletic activities and their parents/guardians. Students will not be allowed to participate in athletic or extra-curricular activities with a physical focus unless both student and parent have completed a concussion training session.

Head injuries that occur during school activities are reported immediately to the parent or guardian for referral to a medical provider. Head injuries occurring outside of the school day or athletic activities are reported by the parent or guardian to the school nurse or guidance counselor for school follow up. Educational materials are provided to the student and his/her family, and the completed student injury report is shared with the school nurse, guidance counselor, athletic trainer/athletic director and teachers as appropriate.

Post-concussion medical clearance for gradual return to academics and athletics may be given only by a physician, or one of the following professionals working in consultation with a physician: a neuropsychologist, a certified athletic trainer, or a nurse practitioner. Once cleared, students are then able to begin their gradual plan for full return to activity and academics, which is coordinated by the certified athletic trainer, school nurse and guidance counselor.

Per Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines, if a student or staff member fails to comply with the school policy for head injury management, penalties may be implemented, including, but not limited to, personnel sanctions.

This policy will be available on the Woburn Public Schools website, which has translation capability, and in the Student Handbook. It will be reviewed yearly and updated every two years at a minimum.