

## CONCUSSION AND HEAD INJURY

Although the majority of concussions may occur in “contact” or “collision” sports, to ensure the safety of all District students, this policy will apply to any student who sustains a head injury regardless of cause and has been diagnosed with a concussion by a physician or other licensed medical professional. SRSD also understands the importance of educating students, parents, and school staff about the risks of concussions and the need for careful management of the post-injury healing process.

### Academic Issues in Concussed Students

When a student experiences a concussion, regardless of whether the injury was a result of a school related or non-school related activity, the school district staff shall be mindful that the concussion may affect the student’s ability to learn and function as they typically would. A graduated stepwise return to learn protocol will be followed to ensure the student is able to maintain his/her academic responsibilities while recovering from the concussion. Development of a Section 504 Accommodations plan may be considered for concussions with symptoms lasting longer than five academic days; when the student has been diagnosed with post concussive syndrome; or by recommendation of the diagnosing healthcare provider.

### Student-Athletes with Suspected Concussions

Coaches are required to be alert to situations where a student-athlete may have experienced a concussion. However, there may be situations where a coach may not have observed an incident, which could result in a concussion or other brain injury. A student-athlete and his or her parent/guardian are required to report to the coach any incident that may result in a concussion or head injury and any possible symptoms.

Any student-athlete who is suspected of experiencing a head injury in practice or in a game shall be immediately removed from play. The student-athlete shall not be allowed to return to play or participate in either the current or future practices or games until he or she is evaluated and cleared by a licensed health care provider and receives written medical authorization to return to play. The student-athlete’s parent/guardian must also complete and sign the SRSD Parental Permission to return to play form. The SRSD may limit a student-athlete’s participation to “graduated return to play” plan, as determined by the student’s treating health care provider. Return to play includes but is not limited to physical education classes and recess.

Please see Rules and Procedures for more information.

### Athletic Director or Administrator in Charge of Athletic Duties

Each spring, the athletic director or designee shall review any changes that have been made in procedures required for concussion and head injury management or other serious injury by consulting with the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA). If there are any updated procedures, they will be added and used for the upcoming school year.

1    Coaching Staff

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3    The Shaker Regional School Board (SRSB) requires all coaches and encourages all  
4    volunteer coaches to complete training as required by NHIAA, New Hampshire  
5    Department of Education and /or other pertinent organizations.

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7    Concussion Information to Parents and Student-Athletes

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9    The Athletic Director will distribute this policy and a concussion information sheet to all  
10   student athletes at sign-ups or try-outs for each sport or at the orientation program for  
11   each sport. A parent/legal guardian and the student-athlete must submit a signed  
12   acknowledgment indicating that they have reviewed and understand the information  
13   provided before being permitted to participate in practice and games.

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15   The Superintendent shall publish Rules and Procedures for this policy.

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17   Legal References

18       *RSA 200:49, Head Injury Policies for Student Sports*  
19       *RSA 200:50, Removal of Student-Athlete*  
20       *RSA 205:51, School Districts; Limitation of Liability*  
21       *RSA 200:52, Definitions*