



Brain Injury Policy

I. Definitions:

- A.** "Brain injury" means a body-altering physical trauma to the brain, skull or neck caused by blunt or penetrating force, concussion, diffuse axonal injury, hypoxia-anoxia or electrical charge.
- B.** "Licensed health care professional" means:
1. A practicing physician or physician assistant licensed pursuant to the Medical Practice Act;
 2. A practicing osteopathic physician licensed pursuant to the Osteopathic Medicine Act;
 3. A practicing certified nurse practitioner licensed pursuant to the Nursing Practice Act;
 4. A practicing osteopathic physician's assistant licensed pursuant to the Osteopathic Medicine Act;
 5. A practicing psychologist licensed pursuant to the provisions of the Professional Psychologist Act;
 6. a practicing athletic trainer licensed pursuant to the provisions of the Athletic Trainer Practice Act;
- or
7. A practicing physical therapist licensed pursuant to the provisions of the Physical Therapy Act.
- C.** "Youth athlete" means an individual under nineteen years of age who engages in, is eligible to engage in or seeks to engage in a youth athletic activity.
- D.** "Youth athletic activity" means an organized athletic activity in which the participants, a majority of whom are under nineteen years of age, are engaged in an athletic game or competition against another team, club or entity, or in practice or preparation for an organized athletic game or competition against another team, club or entity. "Youth athletic activity" does not include an elementary school, middle school, high school, college or university activity or an activity that is incidental to a nonathletic program.
- E.** "Academic year" means any consecutive period of two semesters, three quarters or other comparable units commencing with the fall term each year.
- F.** "Nonscholastic youth athletic activity" means an organized athletic activity in which the participants, a majority of whom are under nineteen years of age, are engaged in an athletic game or competition against another team, club or entity, or in practice or preparation for an organized athletic game or competition against another team, club or entity. "Nonscholastic youth athletic activity" does not include an elementary school, middle school, high school, college or university activity or an activity that is incidental to a nonathletic program.
- G.** "School athletic activity" means a sanctioned middle school, junior high school or senior high school function that the New Mexico activities association regulates.

H. "Student athlete" means a middle school, junior high school or senior high school student who engages in, is eligible to engage in or seeks to engage in a school athletic activity.

II. Brain Injury Protocol:

- A. A coach shall not allow a student athlete to participate in a school athletic activity on the same day that the student athlete:
1. Exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a brain injury after a coach, a school official or a student athlete reports, observes or suspects that a student athlete exhibiting these signs, symptoms or behaviors has sustained a brain injury; or
 2. Has been diagnosed with a brain injury.
- B. A coach may allow a student athlete who has been prohibited from participating in a school athletic activity to participate in a school athletic activity no sooner than two hundred forty hours from the hour in which the student athlete received a brain injury and only after the student athlete:
1. no longer exhibits any sign, symptom or behavior consistent with a brain injury; and
 2. receives a written medical release from a licensed health care professional.

III. Training and Information:

- A. The School shall ensure that each coach participating in school athletic activities and each student athlete in the School receives training and information as follows:
1. Brain injury educational materials must be provided to each coach and administrator of the youth sports organization on an annual basis.
 2. All coaches must be required to review the brain injury education materials at least once per year, pass a post-test, and print the certificate of completion to be included in their records before the coach supervises a youth athlete in a youth athletic activity of the entity.
 3. Both youth athletes and their parents or guardians shall sign a concussion training completion form confirming they have taken a center for disease control and prevention (CDC) approved concussion training, unless the athlete is under 11 years of age, in which case only the parent or guardian shall sign the concussion training completion form.
 4. Any deviation from the use of a centers for disease control and prevention (CDC)-produced or approved materials must be approved by the New Mexico department of health.
- B. At the beginning of each academic year or the first participation in school athletic activities by a student athlete during an academic year, the School shall provide a brain injury training and information form to a student athlete and the student athlete's parent or guardian. The School shall receive signatures on the brain injury training and information form from the student athlete and the student athlete's parent or guardian confirming that the student athlete has received the brain injury training required by this section and that the student athlete and parent or guardian understand the brain injury information before permitting the student athlete to begin or continue participating in school athletic activities for that academic year. As is allowable by law the form required by this subsection is contained on the student athlete sport physical form.
- C. As a condition of permitting nonscholastic youth athletic activity to take place on school property, the School shall require the person offering the nonscholastic youth athletic activity to sign a certification that the nonscholastic youth athletic activity will follow the brain injury protocols pursuant to applicable law.