

Concussion and Head Injury Awareness and Management



When a participant is suspected of sustaining a concussion or any type of head trauma, the participant should be evaluated by a licensed health care professional trained in the management of head injury.

Effective November 1, 2016, the Oklahoma State Legislature required that all school districts and youth sports organizations or associations develop policies and procedures to inform and educate coaches, game officials, team officials, athletes, and their parents or guardians of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury. In addition, players who are suspected of sustaining a concussion shall be removed from play and may not participate until the athlete is evaluated and cleared by a licensed health care professional. (70 O.S. § 24-155).

Each local school district must have in place a signed acknowledgement statement for students participating in activities indicating that signs and symptoms of head trauma have been explained and written information has been distributed to the student and the student's parent or guardian. The form must be signed by the student and the parent or guardian prior to the first practice in which the student participates.

Athletes who are suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury during practice or a contest must be removed from participation.

"Health care provider" means an individual who is registered, certified, licensed or otherwise recognized by the state to provide medical or psychological treatment and who is trained and experienced in the evaluation, management and care of concussions. Return to play and return to learn protocols must be followed as determined by the health care provider(s) designated by the district.

Any athlete removed from participation may not return to participation until the athlete is evaluated by the health care provider designated by the district. The student must receive written clearance prior to being allowed to participate.

When a concussion has been sustained by a student participating in activities, the student, the parent or guardian, as well as all teachers and coaches should be made aware and kept apprised of the student's status.

On an annual basis, game officials and team officials shall undergo concussion training provided by the CDC, the NFHS or a comparable program or resource. A record of completion of the training course shall be readily available upon request. Additional information can be found on the Oklahoma Department of Health website. (https://www.ok.gov/health/Protective_Health/Injury_Prevention_Service/Concussion_Recognition_and_Response/Concussion_in_Youth_Sports/index.html)