

# Franklin County Board of Education

Monitoring: <b>Review: Annually, in May</b>	Descriptor Term: <b>Prevention and Treatment of Sports Related Concussions</b>	Description Code: <b>6.413</b>	Issued Date: <b>01/13/14</b>
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 A concussion is a traumatic brain injury caused by a direct or indirect blow to the head or body. In order to  
 2 ensure the safety of students that participate in interscholastic athletics, it is imperative that student  
 3 athletes, coaches, and parents are educated about the nature and treatment of sports related concussions.  
 4 The Board recognizes that concussions can be a serious health issue and should be treated as such.

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 6 The Board adopts the guidelines and other pertinent information and forms developed by the Tennessee  
 7 Department of Health to inform and educate coaches, school administrators, student athletes, and parent(s)/  
 8 guardian(s) of the nature, risk, and symptoms of concussions and head injuries. These guidelines and  
 9 materials may be viewed on the Department of Health’s website and shall be made available to interested  
 10 parties through the Central Office.

11  
 12 This policy shall govern all activities and those individuals involved in those activities which constitute an  
 13 organized athletic game or competition against another team or in practice or preparation for an organized  
 14 game or competition. It does not govern those activities or individuals involved in those activities which  
 15 are entered into for instructional purposes only or those that are incidental to a nonathletic program or  
 16 lesson.

17  
 18 **REQUIRED TRAINING<sup>1</sup>**

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 20 The director of schools shall ensure that each school’s athletic director and coaches, employed or  
 21 volunteer, annually complete the *Concussion is Sports – What You Need to Know* online course. This  
 22 course may be accessed online at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com).

23  
 24 Prior to the annual initiation of practice or competition, the following persons must review and sign a  
 25 concussion and head injury information sheet approved by the Tennessee Department of Health: the  
 26 director of schools, licensed healthcare professionals (if appointed), each school athletic director, and each  
 27 coach, employed or volunteer.

28  
 29 In addition, prior to the annual initiation of practice or competition, all student athletes and their parent(s)/  
 30 guardian(s) shall review the concussion and head injury information sheets provided by the Tennessee  
 31 Department of Health. A form confirming this review shall be signed and returned by the student athlete, if  
 32 the student athlete is eighteen (18) years of age or older; or by the student athlete’s parent(s)/guardian(s),  
 33 for athletes younger than eighteen (18) years of age.

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 35 All documentation of the completion of a concussion recognition and head injury safety education course  
 36 program and signed concussion and head injury information sheets shall be maintained by the director of  
 37 schools or his/her designee for a period of three (3) years.

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 39 **REMOVAL FROM ATHLETICS<sup>1</sup>**

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 41 Any student athlete who shows signs, symptoms and/or behaviors consistent with a concussion during an  
 42 athletic activity or competition shall be immediately removed for evaluation by a licensed healthcare

1 professional, if available, and if not, by the coach or other designated individuals.

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3 No student athlete who has been removed from an athletic activity or competition due to a concussion or  
4 suspected concussion shall be allowed to return to any supervised team activities involving physical  
5 exertion, including games, competitions, or practices, until the student athlete has been evaluated by and  
6 received written clearance on forms approved by the Department of Health from a licensed health care  
7 provider for a full or graduated return. "Health care provider" means a Tennessee licensed health medical  
8 doctor (M.D.), osteopathic physical (D.O.), or a clinical neuropsychologist with concussion training.

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10 This requirement for clearance prior to a student athlete returning to an athletic activity shall not apply if  
11 there is a legitimate explanation other than a concussion for the signs, symptoms, and/or behavior  
12 observed.

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14 The director of schools or his/her designee shall ensure that all protocols approved by the Tennessee  
15 Department of Health or required by law relative to the provisions of this policy are followed and  
16 implemented within each school.

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Legal Reference:

1. TCA 68-55-502