

STUDENTS
Policy 3422

Student Sports – Concussion, Head Injuries, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Concussion and Head Injuries

The Port Townsend School District Board of Directors recognizes that concussions and head injuries are commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and other recreational activities. The Board acknowledges the risk of catastrophic injuries or death is significant when a concussion or head injury is not properly evaluated and managed. Therefore, all competitive sport activities in the District will be identified by the administration and all appropriate district staff, coaches and team volunteers will complete training as required in the District procedure to recognize warning signs and symptoms of concussion. Additionally, all coaches will comply with WIAA guidelines for the management of head injuries and concussions.

Consistent with Washington law, the District will utilize guidelines developed with the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) and other pertinent information and forms to inform and educate coaches, youth athletes, and their parents and/or guardians of the nature and risk of concussions or head injuries, including the dangers associated with continuing to play after a concussion or head injury.

Annually, the District will distribute a head injury and concussion information sheet to all parents and guardians of student participants in competitive sport activities. The parent/guardians and student must return the signed acknowledgement indicating that they have reviewed and understand the information provided before the student participates in any covered activity. Until this acknowledgement form is returned and on file with the district the student may not practice or compete.*****

All coaches, including volunteers, will complete training as required in the District procedure. Additionally, all coaches of competitive sports activities will comply with WIAA guidelines for the management of head injuries and concussions.

Prior to their first use of school facilities, all private nonprofit youth programs must provide a written statement of compliance with this policy in regard to concussion and head injury with proof of insurance as required by RCW 4.24.660.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

The Board of Directors further recognizes that sudden cardiac arrest is reported to be the leading cause of death in young athletes. The board will work with the WIAA and the University of Washington medicine center for sports cardiology to make available an online pamphlet that provides student athletes, their parents/guardians, and coaches with information about sudden cardiac arrest. To this end, the district will maintain a link on its website to the OSPI website where the online pamphlet will be posted.

Annually, prior to participating in an interscholastic athletic activity, students and their parent/guardian must review the online pamphlet and return a signed statement to the school documenting their review. This form may be combined with the annually distributed head injury and concussion information sheet referenced above.

The board will also work with the WIAA and the University of Washington medicine center for sports cardiology to make available an existing online sudden cardiac arrest prevention program

for coaches. Every three years, prior to coaching an interscholastic athletic activity, all coaches will complete the online program and provide a certificate of completion to the district.

All coaches, including volunteers, will complete training as required in the district procedure. Additionally, all coaches will comply with Washington Interscholastic Activities Association guidelines for the management of sudden cardiac arrest.

Prior to their first use of school facilities, all private nonprofit youth programs must provide a written statement of compliance with this policy in regard to sudden cardiac arrest with proof of insurance as required by RCW 4.24.660.

Cross References:	Policy 4260 Policy 3433 Policy 3418	Use of School Facilities Automated External Defibrillators Response to Student Injury or Illness
Legal References:	RCW 28A.600 RCW 4.24.660	Students Liability of school districts under contract with youth programs
Management Resources:	<i>Policy News</i> , Aug 2009 <i>Policy News</i> , Dec 2011 <i>Policy News</i> , June 2015	Concussion and Head Injuries Legislation

Date: 11/9/09; 5/4/23

PORT TOWNSEND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 50

*******Language is in our current policy, but is not in the model WSSDA policy - recommendation to retain this language.**