

CONCUSSION FACT SHEET  
FOR PRINCIPALS AND ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

***New Law***

A new law “Student Athletes: Concussions and Head Injuries” (IC 20-34-7) will take effect on July 1, 2012. This law requires that schools distribute information sheets to inform and educate coaches, student athletes, and parents of student athletes concerning the nature and risk of concussion and head injury to student athletes, including the risks of continuing to play after concussion or head injury. The law requires that each year, before beginning practice for an interscholastic or intramural sport, a high school student athlete and the student athlete’s parents must be given an information sheet, and both must sign and return a form acknowledging receipt of the information to the student athlete’s coach. The law further states that a high school athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game, shall be removed from play at the time of injury and may not return to play until the student athlete has received a written clearance from a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and head injuries.

***Concussion Checklist for Principals and Athletic Directors***

1. Read through the material included in the “Concussion Packet for Coaches”
2. Know the signs and symptoms of a concussion
3. Discuss the new law requirements with key personnel in your school such as the athletic trainer, medical director, coaches and school nurse
4. Develop procedures to identify and properly handle students that are suspected of having a concussion or head injury which includes, at a minimum, the following:
  - Ensure the fact sheets are distributed to parents and students, and that both sign and return the *Concussion Acknowledgement and Signature Form for Parents and Student Athletes*
  - Ensure that a student athlete does not begin practice for an interscholastic or intramural sport until the *Concussion Acknowledgement and Signature Form for Parents and Student Athletes* is signed and on file with the coaching staff
  - Consider developing procedures for the instance when an athletic trainer would be, and would not be, available
  - Ensure students who are suspected of having a concussion are sent for evaluation by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and head injuries
  - Require that the *Concussion Evaluation and Release to Play Form for Licensed Health Care Providers* is signed and on file with the coaching staff before the athlete can return to play
  - Ensure that the return to play schedule is followed per the guidelines outlined by the licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussion and head injuries
  - Encourage an incident reporting system between the principal, athletic director, athletic trainer, coach and school nurse
5. Conduct concussion education sessions for interscholastic and intramural coaches