



209 W. JACKSON BLVD., SUITE 500 · CHICAGO, IL 60606 · (312) 637-3900 · WWW.ACEROSCHOOLS.ORG

CONCUSSION POLICY			
<b>BOD approval date:</b>	06.29.16	<b>Number:</b>	03.004
<b>Original issue date:</b>	06.30.16	<b>Type:</b>	Policy
<b>Effective date:</b>	06.30.16	<b>Section:</b>	Health & Safety
<b>Date revised (sub.):</b>	09.01.17	<b>Contact:</b>	Director of Athletics

**I. Purpose**

Acero shall implement a program to manage concussions suffered by student athletes.

**II. Reference and Related Procedure**

A. Public Act 099-0245 Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act

**III. Definitions**

- A. Athletic trainer – An Athletic Trainer licensed under the Illinois Athletic Trainers Practice Act.
- B. Coach – Any volunteer or employee of the school who is responsible for organizing and supervising students to teach them or train them in the fundamental skills of an interscholastic athletic activity. The term “Coach” includes both head coaches and assistant coaches.
- C. Concussion – A complex pathophysiological process affecting the brain caused by a traumatic physical force or impact to the head or body, which may include temporary or prolonged altered brain function resulting in physical, cognitive, or emotional symptoms or altered sleep patterns and which may or may not involve a loss of consciousness.
- D. Game Official – A person who officiates at an interscholastic athletic activity, such as a referee or umpire, including, but not limited to, persons enrolled as game officials by the Illinois High School Association or Illinois Elementary School Association.
- E. Interscholastic athletic activity – Any organized school-sponsored or school-sanctioned activity for students, generally outside of school instructional hours, under the direction of a coach, athletic director, or band leader, including, but not limited to, baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, fencing, field hockey, football, golf, gymnastics, ice hockey, lacrosse, marching band, rugby, soccer, skating, softball, swimming and diving, tennis,

track (indoor and outdoor), ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, water polo, and wrestling. All interscholastic athletics are deemed to be interscholastic activities. The term "Interscholastic athletic activity" includes both practice and competition held in relation to the athletic activity.

- F. Nurse – A person who is employed by, or volunteers at, the school and is licensed under the Nurse Practice Act as a registered nurse, practical nurse, or advanced practice nurse.
- G. Physician – A physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches under the Medical Practice Act of 1987.
- H. Student – A student enrolled in either elementary or secondary school.
- I. Student athlete – A student enrolled in either elementary or secondary school who is participates in an interscholastic athletic activity.

#### **IV. Policy**

##### **A. Concussion Oversight Team**

1. The Acero Chief Executive Officer/Designee shall appoint a Concussion Oversight Team, which, at a minimum, shall consist of persons who are responsible for implementing and complying with the return-to-play and return-to-learn protocols.
2. The Concussion Oversight Team shall establish and oversee the implementation of a return-to-play protocol, consistent with this policy, and based on peer-review scientific evidence consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, for a student athlete's return to interscholastic practice or competition following a force or impact believed to have caused a concussion.
3. The Concussion Oversight Team shall establish and oversee the implementation of a return-to-learn protocol, consistent with this policy, and based on peer-review scientific evidence consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, for a student athlete's return to the classroom after that student athlete is believed to have experienced a concussion, whether or not the concussion took place while the student athlete was participating in an interscholastic athletic activity.

##### **B. Receipt of Information Regarding Concussions**

Student athletes may not participate in practice or competition until the student athlete and the student athlete's parents or legal guardians sign a consent form, approved by the Illinois High School Association that acknowledges receiving and reading written information that explains concussion prevention, symptoms, treatment and oversight. The consent form must be completed by the student athlete's parent or legal guardian for each school year.

### C. Student Athlete Removal from an Interscholastic Athletic Activity

A student athlete must be removed from an interscholastic athletic practice or competition immediately if one of the following persons believes the student athlete is exhibiting signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion:

1. a coach;
2. a physician;
3. a game official;
4. an athletic trainer;
5. the student athlete's parents or legal guardian;
6. the student athlete; or
7. any other person deemed appropriate under the return-to-play protocol.

### D. Student Athlete Return-to-Play and Return-to-Learn

1. A student athlete removed from an interscholastic athletic activity practice or competition for exhibiting signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall not be permitted to practice or compete again until:
  - a. the student athlete has been evaluated by a treating physician;
  - b. the student athlete has completed each requirement of the return-to-play and the return-to-learn protocols;
  - c. the student athlete's parents or legal guardian provides a written statement from a treating physician indicating that in the physician's professional judgment, it is safe for the student athlete to return to play and learn;
  - d. the physician's statement is provided to the person responsible for the return-to-play and return-to-learn protocols and his/her supervisor;
  - e. the student athlete and his/her parents or legal guardian have acknowledged that the student athlete has completed the return-to-play and return-to-learn protocols; and
  - f. the student athlete's parents or legal guardian have signed a consent form indicating that the person signing the form has been informed and consents to
    - i. the student participating in the return-to-play and return-to-learn protocols;
    - ii. understands the risks associated with the student returning-to-play and learn;
    - iii. will comply with any on-going requirement in the return-to-play and return-to-learn protocols; and

- iv. the disclosure to appropriate persons, consistent to federal and state law, of the information required in Section 22-80(f)(5)(C) of the Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/22-80.
- 2. A coach of an interscholastic athletic activity may not authorize a student athlete's return to play.
- 3. Return-to-learn
  - a. A student athlete exhibiting signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion, regardless of where the student athlete is believed to have experienced the concussion, shall be evaluated by the student athlete's physician.
  - b. A student athlete diagnosed with a concussion shall complete the return-to-learn protocol.

E. Compliance

- 1. The Chief Education Officer, or that person's designee, shall supervise the person responsible for compliance with the return-to-play and return-to-learn protocol.
- 2. Training is required for Coaches, Nurses (if applicable) and the Concussion Oversight Team. Proof of training completion must be submitted to the Chief Education Officer/Designee.

**V. Applicability**

This policy is applicable to all Acero employees. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in disciplinary action up to, and including termination of employment.