



NIAA CONCUSSION PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND MANAGEMENT POLICY

Participation in NIAA sanctioned sports is a privilege and responsibility which requires all participants to adhere to athletic training rules imposed by the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association ("NIAA"), as well as the school district and member, affiliate or provisional school the student attends and represents. Adherence to training rules ensures that all student athletes are in top physical condition, minimizes potential for significant injury, and further ensures that all member and affiliate school athletic teams are protected and properly represented by their student athletes.

A concussion is a brain injury that results from a bump, blow or jolt to the head or body which causes the brain to move rapidly in the skull and which disrupts normal brain function. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Department of Health and Human Services estimates that as many as 3.8 million concussions occur each year in the United States which are related to participation in sports and other recreational activities. Student athletes who continue to participate in an athletic activity while suffering from a concussion or suffering from the symptoms of an injury to the head are at a greater risk for catastrophic injury to the brain or even death. Ensuring that a student athlete who sustains or is suspected of sustaining a concussion or other injury to the head receives the appropriate medical care before returning to an athletic activity will significantly reduce the child's risk of sustaining greater injury in the future.

The Nevada Legislature passed AB455, now codified at NRS 386.435, during the 2011 Legislative session which mandates the NIAA develop a policy addressing concussion prevention, treatment and management which applies to all sports and activities sanctioned by the NIAA.

THEREFORE, the NIAA hereby adopts the following policy for purposes of prevention, treatment and management of injuries to the head which may occur during a pupil's participation in interscholastic activities and events, including, without limitation, a concussion of the brain. This policy constitutes the minimum standard that all member schools shall follow. School Districts and member schools may choose to adopt and follow more stringent programs and guidelines pertaining to the prevention, treatment and management of concussions and those programs shall take precedence over this policy.

1. Each school year before a student athlete is allowed to participate in an Interscholastic activity or event, the student athlete and his or her parent or legal guardian must be provided with a copy of this policy. Participation in interscholastic activities or events shall be construed in accordance with the definition of "participation" as set forth in NAC 386.615 and 386.695.

2. The student athlete and his or her parent or legal guardian must sign the statement attached to this policy acknowledging that they have read and understand the terms and conditions of the policy, and agree to be bound by the policy.
3. If a student athlete sustains, or is suspected of sustaining, an injury to the head while participating in any NIAA activity or event the pupil must:
 - (a) Be immediately removed from the activity or event; and
 - (b) May only return to the activity or event if the parent or legal guardian of the student athlete first provides the athletic administrator of the member school a signed statement from a provider of health care indicating that the student athlete is medically cleared for participation in the activity or event. The statement must include the date on which the pupil may return to the activity or event.
 - (c) "Provider of health care," as used in (b), above, means a physician licensed under Chapter 630 or 633 of the Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS"), a physical therapist licensed under Chapter 640 of NRS or an athletic trainer licensed under Chapter 640B of NRS.