CONCUSSION POLICY

The Salem School Board recognizes that student-athletes are at risk of suffering concussions while participating in school athletics. The Board also understands the importance of educating students, parents and school staff about the risks of concussions and the need for careful handling of the post-injury healing process.

Concussion Information to Parents and Student-Athletes

The Athletic Department will distribute this policy and a concussion and head injury information sheet to all student athletes at sign-ups or try-outs for each sport or at the orientation program for each sport. A parent/legal guardian and the student-athlete must submit a signed acknowledgment indicating that they have reviewed and understand the information provided before being permitted to play in regular season games.

Student-Athletes with Suspected Concussions

Coaches are required to be alert to situations where a student-athlete may have suffered a concussion or head injury. However, there may be situations where a coach may not have observed an incident which could result in a concussion or head injury. A student-athlete and his or her parent or parents are required to report to the coach any incident which may result in a concussion or head injury, or any possible symptoms.

Any student-athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in practice or in a game shall be immediately removed from play. A school employee coach, official, licensed athletic trainer, or health care provider who suspects that a student-athlete has sustained a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall remove the student-athlete from play immediately. The student-athlete shall not return to play in either practice or in a game that day and until he or she is evaluated by a health care provider and receives a written medical authorization to return to play. The student-athlete’s parent/guardian must also complete and sign the Salem Parental Permission to Return to Play form.

Academic Issues in Concussed Students

In the event a student is concussed, regardless of whether the concussion was a result of a school-related or non-school-related activity, school district staff should be mindful that the concussion may affect the student’s ability to learn. In the event a student has a concussion, that student’s teachers will be notified. Administrators and district staff will work to establish a protocol and course of action to ensure the student is able to maintain his/her academic responsibilities while recovering from the concussion.

Legal Reference: RSA 200:50

Adopted 11/27/12