

NHIAA CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL
(Based on the 2010 NFHS Concussion Rule)
(excerpted from Email sent by Pat Corbin dated Nov. 2, 2010)

The protocol in part describes the symptoms of a potential concussion/head injury. It is expected that anyone connected with an event assume responsibility for identifying any student athlete displaying the symptoms listed in the By-Law. **A student athlete cannot 'return to play' (RTP) under any circumstances on the same day as a diagnosed concussion/head injury is identified and can only subsequently RTP after being seen and cleared by an appropriate medical professional.*** If there is an appropriate medical person working an event or on premises as a staff person or contracted medical professional that person **may allow a student athlete to RTP after judging that the individual has not been concussed/brain injured.** The prohibition of RTP on the day of an injury only applies in terms of these injuries to a student athlete who is either diagnosed with a concussion/brain injury or has symptoms and there is no approved medical person on site to clear the individual to play. We all need to err on the side of caution with respect to these matters. To fail to do so is to place a student athlete in a potentially life threatening situation.

It is not expected that the official or coach will make the determination that a concussion/brain injury has occurred aside from removing a student athlete from the event if they have the symptoms detailed in the on field concussion/head injury protocol. Absent a RTP clearance from an approved medical person the student should not be allowed to play until properly cleared - period. FYI – an approved medical professional for the purposes of this policy means one of the following:

- * 1. Certified Athletic Trainer
- * 2. Licensed Physician
- * 3. Licensed Physician's Assistant
- * 4. Registered Nurse Practitioner
- * 5. Board Certified Sports Physical Therapist

If none of the afore listed medical professionals are present and a concussion/brain injury is suspected the student should be sent for medical treatment and RTP should not occur under any circumstances until approved medical clearance is obtained.

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