

## Concussion Protocol

**To:** IHSA Member School Principals/Athletic Directors/Coaches and IHSA Member School Athletic Trainers, IHSA Administrator for the school athletic trainers.

**From:** Gardner South Wilmington High School Athletic Administration and the IHSA Advisory Administrators for the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.

In accordance with state law, the only people able to authorize a player's return to a contest where he/she was removed with a possible head injury is a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois (in other words, a physician who is credentialed as an M.D. or D.O.) or a certified athletic trainer (ATC).

### *Prior to departure for the contest*

The school administration/concussion oversight team/etc. should notify all coaches when the team is on the road who can return students to play in case of a suspected concussion. The visiting coach should know if his/her school has approved the home team's ATC or team physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois to assess and return players to competition.

### *Pre-Game Medical Huddle*

Prior to the contest beginning, the officials should identify the designee for returning athletes from suspected head injuries. This can be an athletic trainer or physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois, who has the consent to treat any athlete during the contest.

The visiting team coach should confirm whether the host ATC or physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois is allowed to return players to competition or not.

IF the visiting school has approved the host school medical personnel, then the host school medical personnel can return players with suspected concussions to play.

IF the visiting school has not approved the host school medical personnel, then players suspected of concussions cannot return.

### *During the contest*

If a player is removed, he/she can only return to the contest at an appropriate stoppage of time in the game. If a player attempts to return, a game official must confirm with the head coach that the player has been evaluated and cleared to return to play. At that time, the game official should confirm who the person who evaluated the player was and clear him or her to return. *The official should confirm that this person matches with the person mentioned during the pre-game coaches/captains meeting.*

### *Post Game*

Following a contest where a student was removed with a possible head injury, the official who removed the player shall complete a Special Report with the IHSA Office. In the report, the official should include the player's number, the approximate time in the contest when the player was removed, whether or not the player returned to the contest, and the person whom the head coach said had evaluated the player and cleared him/her to return to the contest. An official can also add any other details in his/her report deemed important.

In a situation where no school-approved medical professional is available, an official should not let a player previously removed from a contest with a possible head injury return to that same contest.