

245. CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT POLICY

Date Adopted: 8/15/12

Based on information gathered from the American Academy of Neurology (AAN), the National Athletic Trainer's Association (NATA), the American Medical Association, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and in compliance with Pennsylvania state law, the following is the policy for concussion management and return to play criteria for the Mathematics, Sciences & Technology Community Charter School (the "Charter School"):

All student athletes participating in a school-sponsored contact or collision sport shall be evaluated and cleared to participate in writing by an Appropriate Medical Professional (as defined in the Safety in Youth Sports Act) with training in the evaluation and management of concussion. Such clearance must be provided within the first three days of practice or the establishment of a team roster, whichever is last.

Any additions to rosters should be tested prior to an individual participating in any sport with exposure to contact, including balls and/or equipment (e.g. field hockey balls, lacrosse sticks). Any testing after the first three days must be scheduled through the Athletic Director on an individual basis. Students suspected of having a concussion are not allowed to participate in any athletic activity (including Physical Education class) until the student athlete is evaluated and cleared for return to participation in writing by an Appropriate Medical Professional with training in the evaluation and management of concussion.

If a student athlete is suspected of having a concussion, they are to be removed from practice/competition immediately and not allowed to return to any physical activity (including Physical Education class) until they have been evaluated and cleared in writing by an Appropriate Medical Professional with training in the evaluation and management of concussion.

Students diagnosed with concussion, or presenting signs and symptoms of concussion, need to have a graded concussion checklist generated and symptoms monitored daily. Once all symptoms have passed, the student athlete can be re-tested after a minimum of four days with no recurrence of symptoms for a first concussion, or fourteen days for a second concussion. Athletes who are diagnosed with three concussions in a single school year are not to be allowed to return to any physical activity (including Physical Education class) unless cleared by a neurologist or concussion specialist. Following a negative (pass) test, the student athlete may participate in a physical exertion test the following day. If no signs and symptoms return during the exertion test, the student athlete may begin a gradual return to activity. Athletes who have a positive (fail) test may not be re-tested for a minimum of 48 hours.

Return to activity should be done incrementally after clearance and should take three or more days to completely return the student athlete to full activity. All return to play activities must be approved by the Athletic Director. Any variance to this is to be done only at the discretion of the Athletic Director or the student athlete's physician. Physical Education teachers must be notified if any student athlete's ability to participate in class is restricted.

The Charter School's CEO or his designee has the final say on a student athlete's clearance status following concussion, regardless of documentation provided by the student athlete. "When in doubt, sit them out" is the Charter School's position for concussion management and all decisions will be made with that in mind.

The Charter School, through the Athletic Director, will be utilizing the ImPACT Test (Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing) which is a computerized evaluation system that can be used to help medical professionals diagnose concussions and return-to-play status. In essence, the neurocognitive 20 minute computer baseline test will be administered to all student-athletes at the start of every season (student-athletes participating in multiple seasons will only need to do it once). During the course of a season, if a student-athlete is suspected of having a concussion, the same test will be administered 48 hours after the injury. The computer software will compare the baseline test results with the post-injury test results, and it will create a report that can be sent to students, parents, or doctors' office. While the report cannot diagnose a concussion by itself, it can be a valuable tool for an authorized medical professional to use in his/her diagnosis and the student-athlete's return-to-play status. Starting with the upcoming school year and along with a new concussion policy that complies with the Safety in Youth Act, the Charter School will be implementing this additional tool to fully prioritize the health and well being of our student-athletes.

At no time will a student athlete suspected of having a concussion be allowed to participate in any physical activity related to any activities sponsored by the Charter School.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH THE SCHOOL'S CHARTER OR APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS AND/OR CHARTER CONTROL.