

Health for Student Athletes	F.15
<i>Adopted: July 23, 2013</i> <i>Revised: July 16, 2015</i>	

Although there are numerous benefits to participating in school sponsored sports, student athletes may also experience adverse health consequences of such participation. The Board of Education recognizes that these conditions can have serious consequences if not properly evaluated and treated. Therefore, consistent with state law, the District will inform and educate student athletes and their parents/guardians of the nature and risk of sudden cardiac arrest and concussions or head injuries, including information on the dangers associated with continuing to play after collapsing without a head injury or after receiving a head injury.

Specifically, on an annual basis, and prior to a student athlete’s participation in any athletic practices or competitions, information sheets shall be distributed to the student and his or her parent/guardian. Attached to the information sheet shall be an acknowledgement form which the student and his or her parent/guardian must sign to verify that they have read the information sheets and understand the content and warnings. The completed acknowledgement forms shall be returned to the principal’s office prior to the student athlete’s participation in practice or competition during that school year. The student-athlete may NOT practice or compete until the form has been received.

If the District’s coaching personnel suspect that a student athlete has sustained a concussion or head injury during a practice or game, or if the student collapses or faints without a head injury, the coach shall immediately remove that student from participation and direct the student to obtain an appropriate examination by a licensed health care provider selected by the student’s parent or legal guardian. The Board of Education has defined a licensed health care provider as follows: M.D. – Medical Doctor; D.O. – Doctor of Osteopathy; and other “licensed health care providers” trained in the evaluation and management of concussions. If the student has sustained a head injury, the licensed health care provider MUST be trained in the evaluation and management of concussions. The District shall not be financially responsible for any health care bills associated with the examination.

After suffering a concussion, a student’s physical and cognitive activities should be carefully managed and monitored by the licensed health care professional. Pursuant to Okla. Stat. tit. 70, § 24-155 and 156, any student athlete removed from participation shall NOT be allowed to participate in practices or games until he or she is evaluated by a licensed health care provider and receives the provider’s written clearance to return to participation, a copy of which shall be provided to the District.