

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

OFFICE OF SCHOOL SUPPORT AND IMPROVEMENT

July 2024

Re: Concussion Information

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has a *Concussion Plan* that includes comprehensive, systemwide standards and procedures regarding student-athletes who suffer head injuries and concussions. A complete description of the *MCPS Concussion Plan* and corresponding components are available in the *Health and Safety* section of the MCPS Athletics web page at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/athletics>.

Education

Education is an important component of the *Concussion Plan*. It is important that parents/guardians and students understand the serious nature of concussions, and corresponding signs and symptoms. At a minimum, parents/guardians must review a document entitled *Head's Up—A Fact Sheet for Parents*. Student-athletes are required to review a similar document designed for student-athletes. Also, a *Health and Safety PowerPoint* will be presented to all student-athletes which includes information regarding concussions. The PowerPoint is available in the *Health and Safety* section of the MCPS Athletics web page. Additional information on the Athletics web page which parents/guardians and students are encouraged to review includes:

- *MCPS Concussion Plan*
- *What is a Concussion?*
- *Concussion in Sports* (an online 30-minute concussion course)
- *A Parent's Guide to Concussions*

Baseline Concussion Testing

MCPS student-athletes are encouraged to complete a baseline test one time prior to their initial participation in the MCPS interscholastic athletics program. Additional information regarding optional baseline concussion testing is included in a letter that is provided to parents/guardians during the online registration process for athletics (also available on the MCPS web page). The *MCPS Baseline Testing Plan* is located in the *Health and Safety* section of the MCPS Athletics web page.

Athletic Trainers

Athletic trainers are assigned to each MCPS high school. Athletic trainers will assist coaches and student-athletes in many health and safety-related areas, including on-site evaluation of head injuries and in monitoring gradual return-to-play protocol for student-athletes who have suffered a concussion.

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Required Consent/Information

If parents/guardians choose to have their child complete baseline testing prior to participation, student-athletes and parent/guardians are required to electronically submit three specific forms that relate directly to concussions, concussion awareness, and baseline concussion testing. These forms are completed during the registration process for athletics through ParentVue.

- *Pre-Participation Head Injury/Concussion Report Form for Extracurricular Activities*
- *Concussion Awareness (Parent/Student-Athlete Acknowledgement Statement)*
- *Consent Form: ImPACT Baseline Concussion Testing*

Procedures

Detailed procedures regarding head injuries and concussions are outlined on the *MCPS Concussion Plan*. A general overview of the *Concussion Plan* and corresponding procedures include:

- Any student-athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be removed from the practice or contest and shall not return to play until cleared by an authorized health care provider—the clearance form must be signed.
- The student-athlete's parents/guardians shall be informed that their son or daughter may have suffered a concussion and shall be advised to take their child to an authorized health care provider as soon as possible. The parent/guardian will be issued the MPSSAA form **Medical Clearance for Student-Athlete Suspected Head Injury*.
- Appropriate school personnel, including administrators, athletics specialist, and school nurse, will be informed of the injury. Appropriate follow-up will be initiated.
- If the student-athlete suffered a concussion, he or she may begin a supervised gradual return-to-play process on the date indicated on the form *Medical Clearance for Student-Athlete Suspected Head Injury*.
- The student-athlete's gradual return to full activity is monitored by school staff over a five-day period, according to the MPSSAA form **Graduated Return to Play Protocol*.
- The student-athlete may resume full participation after he or she successfully completes a supervised, gradual return-to-play protocol.

*These forms are located in the Health and Safety section of the MCPS Athletics web page at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/athletics>.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey K. Sullivan, Ed.D.
Director of Systemwide Athletics

JKS:rtm

Copy to:

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