

Concussion, Head Injuries, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest

The Tonasket Board of Directors recognizes that concussions and head injuries are commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and other activities. The board acknowledges that the risk of catastrophic injuries or death are significant when a concussion or head injury is not properly evaluated and managed.

Concussion and Head Injuries

- A. All competitive sport activities in the district will be identified by the administration and district staff, coaches and team volunteers will complete training as required in Procedure 3422 to recognize warning signs and symptoms of concussion and head injury. Additionally, all coaches will comply with Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) guidelines for the management of concussions and head injuries

Consistent with Washington law, the district will utilize guidelines developed with the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) and other pertinent information and forms to inform and educate coaches, youth athletes, and their parents and/or guardians of the nature and risk of concussions or head injuries, including the dangers associated with continuing to play after a concussion or head injury. TSD student athletes are not allowed to return to practice or play following a suspected concussion without written authorization by an approved medical practitioner under the law

Annually, the district will distribute a head injury and concussion information sheet to all parents/guardians of student participants in competitive sport activities. The parent/guardian and student must return a signed acknowledgement indicating that they have reviewed and understand the information provided before the student participates in any covered activity. Until this acknowledgement form is returned and on file with the district, the student may not practice or compete.

- B. All district staff will complete training in recognizing warning signs of concussions and head injuries and procedure for reporting. Staff also will receive a copy of Procedure 3422.
- C. Prior to their first use of school facilities, all private nonprofit youth programs must provide a written statement of compliance with this policy in regard to concussion and head injury with proof of insurance as required by RCW 4.24.660.
- D. A concussion and head injury information sheet will be included in all student handbooks. Sometimes concussion and head injuries require a break from intellectual activity and screen time to promote healing.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

- A. The Board of Directors further recognizes that sudden cardiac arrest is reported to be the leading cause of death in young athletes. The board will work with the WIAA and the University of Washington medicine center for sports cardiology to make available an online pamphlet that provides student athletes, their parents/guardians and coaches with information about sudden cardiac arrest.

To this end, the district will maintain a link on its website to the OSPI website where the online pamphlet will be posted.

Annually, prior to participating in an interscholastic athletic activity, students and their parent/guardian must review the online pamphlet and return a signed statement to the school documenting their review. This form may be combined with the annually distributed head injury and concussion information sheet referenced above.

The board will also work with the WIAA and the University of Washington medicine center for sports cardiology to make available an existing online sudden cardiac arrest prevention program for coaches. Every three years, prior to coaching an interscholastic athletic activity, all coaches will complete the online program and provide a certificate of completion to the district.

All coaches, including volunteers, will complete training as required in the district procedure. Additionally, all coaches will comply with Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) guidelines for the management of sudden cardiac arrest.

Prior to their first use of school facilities, all private nonprofit youth programs must provide a written statement of compliance with this policy in regard to sudden cardiac arrest with proof of insurance as required by RCW 4.24.660.

All coaches, including volunteers, will complete training as required in the district procedure. Additionally, all coaches of competitive sport activities will comply with WIAA guidelines for the management of head injuries and concussions.

- B. All district staff will complete training for the management of sudden cardiac arrest.
- C. Prior to their first use of school facilities, all private nonprofit youth programs must provide a written statement of compliance with this policy in regard to sudden cardiac arrest with proof of insurance as required by RCW 4.24.660.
- D. A sudden cardiac arrest information sheet will be included in all student handbooks.

Cross References: 3413 – Automated External Defibrillators
3418 – Response to Student Injury or Illness
4260 - Use of School Facilities

Legal References: RCW 4.24.660 Liability of school districts under contract with youth programs
Chapter 28A.600 RCW Students

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Tonasket School District
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