

Barrington Public Schools Concussion Awareness Statement

School & Youth Programs Concussion Act Title 16-90-1

Findings of fact—The Rhode Island General Assembly hereby finds and declares:

(1) Concussions are one of the most commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities. A concussion is caused by a blow or motion to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. The risk of catastrophic injuries or death is significant when a concussion or head injury is not properly evaluated and managed.

(2) Concussions are a type of brain injury that can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Concussions can occur in any organized or unorganized sport or recreational activity and can result from a fall or from players colliding with each other, the ground, or with obstacles. Concussions occur with or without loss of consciousness, but the vast majority occurs without loss of consciousness.

(3) Continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms of a head injury leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury and even death. The general assembly also recognizes that, despite having generally recognized return to play standards for concussion and head injury, some affected youth athletes are prematurely returned to play resulting in actual or potential physical injury or death to youth athletes in the State of Rhode Island.

(4) Concussions can occur in any sport or recreational activity. All coaches, parents, and athletes shall be advised of the signs and symptoms of concussions as well as the protocol for treatment.

In response to these findings schools are required to educate and inform parents and athletes and of the Nature & Risk of concussions and head injury including issues related to the continuation of play after a suspected concussion or head injury.

Furthermore, an athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from competition. In addition, the athlete may not return to play until he/she is evaluated by a licensed physician and until the athlete receives written clearance to return to play from that licensed physician.

This information sheet must be reviewed, signed by all athletes and their parents and/or guardian and returned to the school at the beginning of each sport season and prior to the youth's return to practice or competition.

The law also requires the following:

- Any athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury during practice or a game shall be removed from practice or game.
- Any athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury may not return to play until he/she is evaluated by a licensed physician and receives written clearance to return to play by that licensed physician.

Print Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Print Athlete's Name: _____

Year of Graduation: _____ Sport(s): _____

I have reviewed the contents of the concussion information pamphlet with my son/daughter.

Parent Signature

Athlete Signature

Date Signed: _____

For more information please visit the RIIL website (www.riil.org)