



To: NJSIAA Member Schools
From: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director
Date: December 16, 2021
RE: N.J.S.A. 18A: 40-41.4 Concussion Update

Overview:

The New Jersey State Legislature has recently adopted a new law dealing with concussions at sports events. That new law, which is codified at N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.4, requires that “A student who participates in an interscholastic sports program, intramural sports program, or cheerleading program and who sustains or is suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury while engaged in a competition or practice shall not participate in further sports or cheerleading activity” until the student is evaluated and receives written clearance and the student returns to regular school activities and is no longer experiencing symptoms.

This new law has been reviewed by multiple attorneys. To comply with this new law, NJSIAA has determined that the following guidelines are effective immediately:

N.J.S.A. 18A: 40-41.4 Return to Play Progression:

A student who has sustained, or is suspected to have sustained a concussion, shall be immediately removed from the game or practice and shall not participate any further until the student has:

1. Received written clearance from a physician trained in the evaluation and management of concussions to return to competition or practice; and
2. Returned to regular school activities and is no longer experiencing symptoms of the injury when conducting those activities.

The return of a student to competition or practice shall be in accordance with the graduated, six-step “Return to Play Progression” recommendations and any subsequent changes or other updates to those recommendations as developed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Summary:

The practical effect of this new law is to eliminate a return-to-play on the same day the student is removed from a game or practice.

Below is the link to the entire statute for your reference:

https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/PL21/222_.PDF