



IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION IOWA GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC UNION CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL

Iowa Code Section 280.13C states, in part,

1b. “Annually, each school district and nonpublic school shall provide to the parent or guardian of each student a concussion and brain information sheet, as provided by the Iowa High School Athletic Association and Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union. The student and student’s parent or guardian shall sign and return the concussion and brain injury information sheet to the student’s school prior to the student’s participation in any interscholastic activity for grades seven through twelve.

2. If a student’s coach or contest official observes signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury in an extracurricular interscholastic activity, the student shall be immediately removed for participation.

3a. A student who has been removed from participation shall not recommence such participation until the student has been evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and other brain injuries and the student has received written clearance to return to participation from the health care provider.

3b. For the purposes of this section, a **licensed health care provider means a physician, physician’s assistant, chiropractor, advanced registered nurse practitioner, nurse, physical therapist, or licensed athletic trainer** licensed by a board designated under section 147.13.

3c. For the purposes of this section, an extracurricular interscholastic activity means any extracurricular interscholastic activity, contest, or practice, including sports, dance, and cheerleading.”

IHSAA/IGHSAU Recommended Protocol When a Student Has Sustained a Concussion or other Brain Injury as Defined in Iowa Code Section 280.13C

1. **No student should return to play/competition or practice (RTP) on the same day s/he sustained a concussion or brain injury, but a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code Section 280.13C makes the final decision regarding (RTP).**
2. **A licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code Section 280.13C should evaluate a student suspected of having a concussion or brain injury on the same day the injury occurs.**
3. **After receiving medical clearance by a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code Section 280.13C, RTP should follow a stepwise protocol with provisions for delayed RTP based upon the return of any signs or symptoms.**
4. **Education of contest officials, school coaches and other appropriate school personnel, contestants, parents, and licensed health care providers.**
 - The Iowa High School Athletic Association and Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union will provide educational materials related to concussions and brain injuries developed by the CDC and other organizations knowledgeable about concussions.
5. **Removing students who exhibit signs, symptoms, & behaviors of a concussion or brain injury from participation, and their return to participation.**
 - **Coach Removal** - If the student's coach observes signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury, during any kind of participation, i.e. practices, scrimmages, contests, etc., the student shall be immediately removed from participation and shall not return until the school's designated representative receives written clearance to return from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C.
 - **Contest Official Removal** - If a contest official observes signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury, during scrimmages, contests, etc., the student shall be immediately removed from participation and a designated contest official at the contest/event must receive the written clearance to return from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation in that contest/event, including an event that takes place over multiple days.

- Before allowing a student who has been exhibiting signs, symptoms, & behaviors of a concussion to return to participation (*practice and/or competition*), licensed health care providers as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C should follow the return to participation protocol from “Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports,” NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee 2009 and “Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport 3rd International Conference in Sport Held in Zurich, November 2008,” Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine, Volume 19, Number 3, May 2009.
6. **At events where the Iowa High School Athletic Association or Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union have provided licensed health care providers as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C, those licensed health care providers have final authority regarding RTP when a student has exhibited signs, symptoms, and behaviors consistent with a concussion.**

Adopted 122012

RETURN TO PARTICIPATION PROTOCOL FOLLOWING A CONCUSSION (GUIDELINES FOR LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS)

Return to participation following a concussion is a medical decision made on an individual basis by licensed health care providers. Medical experts in concussion believe a concussed student should meet **ALL** of the following criteria in order to progress to return to participation. However, these criteria are **GUIDELINES ONLY** and not required by Iowa Code Section 280.13C when licensed health care providers determine a student's return to participation.

- **Asymptomatic at rest, and with exertion (including mental exertion in school), AND have written clearance** from physician, physician's assistant, chiropractor, advanced registered nurse practitioner, nurse, physical therapist or licensed athletic trainer . ****Written clearance to return by one of these licensed health care providers is REQUIRED by Iowa Code Section 280.13C!***
- Once the criteria above are met, **the student should progress back to full activity following the stepwise process** detailed below. A licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code Section 280.13C, or their designee, should closely supervise this progression.
- **Progression to return is individualized and should be determined on a case-by-case basis.** Factors that may affect the rate of progression include: previous history of concussion, duration and type of symptoms, age of the student, and sport/activity in which the student participates. A student with a history of concussion, one who has had an extended duration of symptoms, or one who is participating in a collision or contact sport may progress more slowly as determined by a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code Section 280.13C, or their designee.

- Step 1. Complete physical and cognitive rest.** No exertional activity until asymptomatic. This may include staying home from school or limiting school hours (and studying) for several days. Activities requiring concentration and attention may worsen symptoms and delay recovery.
- Step 2. Return to school full-time /normal cognitive daily activities, or normal cognitive functions.**
- Step 3. Low impact, light aerobic exercise.** This step should not begin until the student is no longer having concussion symptoms and is cleared by the treating licensed health care provider. At this point the student may begin brisk walking, light jogging, swimming or riding an exercise bike at less than 70% maximum performance heart rate. No weight or resistance training.
- Step 4. Basic exercise,** such as running in the gym or on the field. No helmet or other equipment.
- Step 5. Non-contact, sport-specific training drills** (dribbling, ball handling, batting, fielding, running drills, etc.) in full equipment. Weight-training can begin.
- Step 6. Following medical clearance*, full contact practice or training.**
- Step 7. Normal competition in a contest.**

NOTE: Generally, **each step should take a minimum of 24 hours.** If post concussion symptoms occur at **ANY** step, the student must stop the activity and their licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code Section 280.13C should be contacted. If any post-concussion symptoms occur during this process, the student should drop back to the previous asymptomatic level and begin the progression again after an additional 24-hour period of rest has taken place.

References: "Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports," NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee 2009; "Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport 3rd International Conference in Sport Held in Zurich, November 2008," *Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine*, Volume 19, Number 3, May 2009.

Updated 05/22/12

APPLICATION OF IOWA CODE SECTION 280.13C (CONCUSSION LEGISLATION) BY SPORT

A. COACH REMOVAL

When a student's coach removes a student from any kind of participation due to observing signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury the student shall not return until designated school personnel have received written clearance to return from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C.

B. CONTEST OFFICIAL REMOVAL

(Information below is only listed for sports where contest officials have jurisdiction; therefore, not all sports are listed.)

When an official removes a student from participation, the following procedures are used.

FALL SPORTS

Cross Country:

1. If a contest official removes a student with signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury from participation, the contest referee must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation in the meet.
2. As long as the meet is in progress, the written clearance to return shall be presented to the referee and the referee shall determine the student's return to competition.

Football:

1. If a contest official removes a student with signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury from participation, the contest referee must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation in that contest/event.
2. If the contest is in progress, the written clearance to return shall be presented to the referee during a time when the clock is stopped.
3. If the event is between contests, i.e. between lower level and varsity contests, the written clearance to return may be presented to the referee before the next contest begins.

Swimming & Diving:

1. If a contest official removes a student with signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury from participation, the contest referee must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation in that contest/event.
2. If the event is in progress, the written clearance to return shall be presented to the referee after a race has finished and before the next race has begun.
3. If the contest is between events, i.e. between lower level and varsity contests, the written clearance to return may be presented to the referee before the next event begins.
4. For multiple day events when the contest referee may not be the same throughout the entire event, the contest referee on the day the student was removed will make a verbal report about the injury to the tournament manager. The tournament manager will be responsible to report the incident to the referee(s) of the contest(s) in which the student may participate on subsequent days of the event. The referee(s) of future contests during this event must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation.

Volleyball:

1. If a contest official removes a student with signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury from participation, the contest referee must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation in that contest/event.
2. If the contest is in progress, the written clearance to return shall be presented to the referee during a dead ball situation.
3. If the event is between contests, i.e. between lower level and varsity contests, the written clearance to return may be presented to the referee before the next contest begins.
5. For multiple day events, i.e. conference tournament, when the contest referee will not be the same throughout the entire event, the contest referee on the day the student was removed will make a verbal report about the injury to the tournament manager. The tournament manager will be responsible to report the incident to the referee(s) of the contest(s) in which the student may participate on subsequent days of the event. The referee(s) of future contests during this event must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation.

WINTER SPORTS

Basketball:

1. If a contest official removes a student with signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury from participation, the contest referee must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation in that contest/event.
2. If the contest is in progress, the written clearance to return shall be presented to the referee during a time when the clock is stopped.
3. If the event is between contests, i.e. between lower level and varsity contests, the written clearance to return may be presented to the referee before the next contest begins.
4. For multiple day events, i.e. conference tournament, when the contest referee will not be the same throughout the entire event, the contest referee on the day the student was removed will make a verbal report about the injury to the tournament manager. The tournament manager will be responsible to report the incident to the referee(s) of the contest(s) in which the student may participate on subsequent days of the event. The referee(s) of future contests during this event must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation.

Swimming:

1. If a contest official removes a student with signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury from participation, the contest referee must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation in that contest/event.
2. If the event is in progress, the written clearance to return shall be presented to the referee after a race has finished and before the next race has begun.
3. If the contest is between events, i.e. between lower level and varsity contests, the written clearance to return may be presented to the referee before the next event begins.
4. For multiple day events when the contest referee may not be the same throughout the entire event, the contest referee on the day the student was removed will make a verbal report about the injury to the tournament manager. The tournament manager will be responsible to report the incident to the referee(s) of the contest(s) in which the student may

participate on subsequent days of the event. The referee(s) of future contests during this event must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation.

Wrestling:

1. If a contest official removes a student with signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury from participation, the head contest referee, or his/her designee, must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation in that contest/event.
2. For dual meets, clearance to return shall be presented to the head contest referee before the match resumes. Injury time is NOT extended for a student with signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury.
3. For one-day events when the head contest referee may change during the event (multi-dual meets & tournaments), written clearance to return shall be presented to the head contest referee, or his/her designee, before the student participates again that day. The designee may be the host administrator, head event official, designated on-site licensed medical professional, etc. The student's coach, or other school-designated representative, is responsible for providing the written clearance to return to head contest referee, or his/her designee. The head contest referee, or designee, will then notify the other contest officials that written clearance to return has been received.
4. For multiple day events when the head contest referee may change during the event, the head contest referee on the day the student was removed will make a verbal report about the injury to the tournament manager. The tournament manager will be responsible to report the incident to the referee(s) of the contest(s) in which the student may participate on subsequent days of the event. The referee(s) of future contests during this event must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation.

SPRING/SUMMER SPORTS

Baseball/Softball:

1. If a contest official removes a student with signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury from participation, the umpire-in-chief must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation in that contest/event.

2. If the contest is in progress, the written clearance to return shall be presented to the umpire-in-chief during an opportunity for a legal substitution.
3. For one-day events when the umpire-in-chief may change during the event (local high school tournaments), written clearance to return shall be presented to the umpire-in-chief, or his his/her designee, before the student participates again that day. The designee may be the host administrator, designated on-site licensed medical professional, etc. The student's coach, or other school-designated representative, is responsible for providing the written clearance to return to the umpire-in-chief, or his/her designee. The umpire-in-chief, or his/her designee, will then notify the other contest umpires that written clearance to return has been received.
4. For multiple day events when the umpire-in-chief may change during the event, for example the state tournament, the umpire-in-chief on the day the student was removed will make a verbal report about the injury to the tournament manager. The tournament manager will be responsible to report the incident to the umpire-in-chief(s) of the contest(s) in which the student may participate on the subsequent days of the event. The umpire-in-chief(s) of future contests during this event must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation.

Soccer:

1. If a contest official removes a student with signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury from participation, the contest referee must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation in that contest/event.
2. If the contest is in progress, the written clearance to return shall be presented to the referee during an opportunity for a legal substitution. For those contests using a three-person crew, the center official shall be designated as the head referee. The center official will need to receive the written clearance for return to play. For those contests using a two-person crew, one official shall be required to be the head referee. The head referee in the two-person crew shall be responsible for receiving the written clearance.
3. For one day events when the head contest referee may change during the event (local high school Saturday tournaments), written clearance to return shall be presented to the head contest referee, or his his/her designee, before the student participates again that day. The designee may be the host administrator, head event official, designated on-site licensed medical professional, etc. The student's coach, or other school-designated

representative, is responsible for providing the written clearance to return to the head contest referee, or his/her designee. The head contest referee, or his/her designee, will then notify the other contest officials that written clearance to return has been received.

4. For multiple day events when the head contest referee may change during the event, for example the state tournament, the head contest referee on the day the student was removed will make a verbal report about the injury to the tournament manager. The tournament manager will be responsible to report the incident to the referee(s) of the contest(s) in which the student may participate on the subsequent days of the event. The referee(s) of future contests during this event must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation.

Track and Field:

1. If a contest official removes a student with signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or brain injury from participation, the contest referee must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation in the meet.
2. As long as the meet is in progress, the written clearance to return shall be presented to the referee and the referee shall determine the student's return to competition.
3. For multiple day events when the contest referee may not be the same throughout the entire meet, the contest referee on the day the student was removed will make a verbal report about the injury to the tournament manager. The tournament manager will be responsible to report the incident to the referee(s) of the contest(s) in which the student may participate on subsequent days of the meet. The referee(s) of future contests during this meet must receive written clearance from a licensed health care provider as defined in Iowa Code 280.13C before the student can return to participation.

Record Keeping:

- A. Health records, such as written clearance to return to participation, should become part of a student's cumulative file kept by the school. *Iowa Administrative Code 281.12.3(4)*