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NYSED  
Coaching & Athletics Update  
October 2010

Please share the following information with all Directors of Physical Education/Athletics in your sections and leagues. Thank you.

## 1. COACHING -

### **SED Policy on Coaches Who Have Not Completed the Required Courses within the time lines in regulation.**

There have been several issues with coaches who have requested an extension of time to complete the required coaching courses. Many have already exceeded the timeline in regulation and can not be granted an extension. Coaches in this situation will fall under the following SED policy on this issue:

1. The coach is *suspended* from all coaching duties until:
  - All required courses are completed
  - Verification of all course completions are presented to the local board of education
  - The board of education appoints the coach to the sport after receiving verification of course completion.
2. If the sport season is about to start the coach *may not coach* until the above is met.
3. If the sport season has started, the coach is *immediately suspended from coaching* until the above is met.

## 2. NFHS RULE –

### **Officials are to remove athletes who exhibit sign/symptoms of head injury.**

The NFHS Concussion Rule states, “Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headaches, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until *cleared* by an appropriate health-care professional”.

SED’s policy on “cleared by an appropriate health-care professional<sup>1</sup>.”

1. [New York State only permits the school medical officer to clear an athlete to return to play after removal from a game for exhibiting the signs/symptoms of a concussion.](#)
2. If the school medical officer is not available on the sideline to allow a safe return to

<sup>1</sup> According to the Office of Professions, the only persons who can diagnose are physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants and therefore the school medical officer who must be either a physician or nurse practitioner is the only individual who may clear the athlete to return to play. The Office of Professions has specifically indicated that athletic trainers, nurses, EMS, and other medical personnel are not authorized in NYS to perform such clearances.

play, the athlete must remain out of the game until cleared by the school medical officer to return to play.

**NOTE:** Not all NYSPHSAA sports are covered by NHFS rule books so this may result in some confusion by officials as to whether or not they are required to remove an athlete with signs and symptoms of head injury. SED would expect that *any* official, coach, or administrator, regardless of whether there is an actual rule or not, who observes an athlete with the signs and symptoms of head injury would act responsibly and remove the athlete from the game. Head injuries are extremely serious and can result in death or severe brain damage. The safety of athletes should always come first.

### **Citations from Regulation and NYSED Guideline regarding :**

#### Part 135.4(c)(7) Basic Code for Extra Class Activities.

(i) General provisions. It shall be the duty of trustees and boards of education:

*(e) to give primary consideration to the well-being of individual boys and girls in the conduct of games and sports;*

*(f) to sacrifice no individual for the sake of winning events;*

*(g) to conduct all activities under adequate safety provisions;*

*(h)...*

*(i) to provide adequate health examination before participation in strenuous activity and periodically throughout the season as necessary, and to permit no pupil to participate in such activity without the approval of the school medical officer;*

#### New York State Education Department Health Appraisal Guideline

##### III. Interscholastic Athletic Health Appraisals

Requalification – page 20:

7. Any student whose safe participation is in question as a result of the health history interview, an injury, or a prolonged absence must be requalified by the school physician prior to participation.

- The extent of injury and the nature of the illness will determine the need for requalification. This determination will be assessed on an individual basis in conjunction with school health personnel and the private health care provider, if appropriate. However, the final decision must be made by the school physician.

#### **For Physical Education/Athletic Information**

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