

1 The Transylvania County Board of Education (the “board”) recognizes that concussions and
2 other head injuries may be serious and potentially life threatening and that such injuries may
3 result in serious consequences later in life if managed improperly. The board is committed to
4 practices that reduce the potential for short-term or long-term effects from such injuries. In
5 support of this commitment, the board directs school employees to comply with the concussion
6 safety ~~requirements-rules~~ for interscholastic athletic competition adopted by the State Board of
7 Education as required established by G.S. 115C-~~407.57+2(23)~~ and initially established as
8 amended in the Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act of 2011, ~~and to implement and follow~~
9 ~~all concussion safety requirements set forth in State Board of Education rules and policies~~. The
10 superintendent or designee shall develop plans consistent with state requirements and shall
11 implement and monitor compliance with this policy. The superintendent is authorized to
12 investigate the use of baseline testing for student-athletes and require that student-athletes
13 undergo such testing prior to their participation in any interscholastic athletic competition.

14
15 **A. DEFINITION OF CONCUSSION**

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17 A concussion is a traumatic brain injury caused by a direct or indirect impact to the head
18 that results in disruption of normal brain function, which may or may not result in a loss
19 of consciousness.

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21 **B. CONCUSSION EDUCATION VIDEO FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETES**

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23 ~~Per North Carolina High School Athletic Association rules, a~~All high school student-
24 athletes and parents of high school student-athletes must view the CrashCourse
25 concussion education video prior to each sport season.

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27 **C. SCHOOL HEAD INJURY INFORMATION SHEET**

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29 Each year, all coaches, school nurses, athletic directors, first responders, volunteers,
30 student-athletes, and parents of student-athletes must be provided with a concussion and
31 head injury information sheet that meets the requirements of the State Board. Before any
32 student, school employee, volunteer, or first responder will be allowed to participate in
33 interscholastic athletic activities, including tryouts, practices, or competitions, he or she
34 must sign the head injury information sheet and return it to the coach. Parents also must
35 sign the sheet and return it to the coach before their children may participate in any
36 interscholastic athletic activity. The principal of each school shall ensure that a complete
37 and accurate record of the returned signed sheets is maintained in accordance with law
38 and State Board policy.

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40 **D. REMOVAL FROM AND RETURN TO PLAY**

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42 Any student-athlete who is exhibiting signs or symptoms consistent with a concussion
43 must be removed from athletic activity immediately. Further, the student-athlete must
44 not be allowed to return to play or practice that day or on any subsequent day until he or

45 she has been evaluated and has received written clearance for participation that complies
46 with the requirements of G.S. 115C-~~407.57+2(23)~~ and any other applicable law or State
47 Board policy or rule.

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49 **E. RETURN TO LEARNING**

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51 The superintendent or designee shall develop a plan that meets all the requirements of the
52 State Board of Education for addressing the needs of students in grades ~~P~~pre-K through
53 12 who suffer concussions. The superintendent or designee shall also arrange for
54 information and professional development to be provided annually to all teachers and
55 other school personnel on return-to-learn issues and other concerns related to concussion
56 and brain injuries. Parents and students must be offered the opportunity annually to
57 provide information related to any head injury or concussion the student may have
58 incurred during the past year on the health history and emergency medical information
59 update form.

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61 **F. EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS**

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63 Each principal or designee shall develop a venue-specific emergency action plan to
64 respond to serious medical injuries and acute medical conditions in which the condition
65 of the injured student may deteriorate rapidly. All such plans must include a delineation
66 of roles, methods of communication, available emergency equipment, and a plan for
67 emergency transport. The plans must be (1) in writing, (2) reviewed by an athletic trainer
68 who is licensed in North Carolina, (3) approved by the principal if developed by a
69 designee, (4) distributed, posted, reviewed, and rehearsed in accordance with G.S. 115C-
70 ~~407.58+2(23)~~, and (5) compliant with any other requirements of state law and State
71 Board policy or rules.

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73 **G. ATHLETIC TRAINERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS**

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75 Each high school principal shall designate at least one licensed athletic trainer or first
76 responder who meets the requirements of state law and State Board of Education policy.
77 The principal shall monitor each athletic trainer’s or first responder’s compliance with the
78 duties assigned to the position by the State Board and any additional duties assigned by
79 the superintendent or designee, including, but not limited to, attendance at football games
80 and practices and compliance with all applicable training and certification requirements.

81
82 To the extent funding and resources are available, the superintendent shall work toward
83 having a licensed athletic trainer or first responder available for all school practices and
84 games of all high school and middle school sports.

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86 **H. RECORD KEEPING**

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88 The superintendent shall require each principal to maintain complete and accurate records

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Policy Code: 4270/6145

89 of actions taken in his or her school to comply with this policy and applicable legal
90 authority. Records shall include accounts of any education or training as may be required
91 by law or State Board of Education policy or rules.

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93 The superintendent's annual report to the board on compliance with laws and policies
94 related to student wellness shall include a report on the system's compliance with laws
95 and policies related to concussions and head injuries. (See ~~Section~~ subsection F.4G of
96 policy 6140, Student Wellness.)
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98 Legal References: G.S. 90 art. 34; 115C-12(23), ~~-407.55, -407.57, -407.58, -407.70~~; S.L. 2011-
99 147; ~~Article 34 Chapter 90~~; 16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0205, .0206; State Board of Education Policies
100 ATHL-000, ATHL-003, SHLT-001; N.C. High School Athletic Association Handbook, available
101 at <https://www.nchsaa.org/handbook>

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103 Cross References: Student Wellness (policy 6140)

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105 Other Resources: Matthew Gfeller Sport-Related TBI Research Center at UNC website,
106 <https://gfellerwallerlaw.unc.edu/http://tbicenter.unc.edu>; *Report to the North Carolina General*
107 *Assembly: Study of Sports Injuries at Middle School and High School Levels*, N.C. Department
108 of Public Instruction (2011), available at <https://webservices.ncleg.gov/ViewDocSiteFile/16567>

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110 Adopted: October 17, 2016

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112 Revised: February 19, 2018 (legal references only); December 16, 2019; September 21, 2020;
113 August 2, 2021; April 3, 2023; DATE