

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 for interscholastic athletic competition established by G.S. 115C-12(23) as
7 amended in the Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act of 2011, and to implement and follow
8 all concussion safety requirements set forth in State Board of Education rules and policies. The
9 superintendent or designee shall develop plans consistent with state requirements and shall
10 implement and monitor compliance with this policy. The superintendent is authorized to
11 investigate the use of baseline testing for student-athletes and require that student-athletes
12 undergo such testing prior to their participation in any interscholastic athletic competition.

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14 **A. DEFINITION OF CONCUSSION**

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

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20 **B. SCHOOL HEAD INJURY INFORMATION SHEET**

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

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33 **C. REMOVAL FROM AND RETURN TO PLAY**

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35 Any student-athlete who is exhibiting signs or symptoms consistent with a concussion
36 must be removed from athletic activity immediately. Further, the student-athlete must
37 not be allowed to return to play or practice that day or on any subsequent day until he or
38 she has been evaluated and has received written clearance for participation that complies
39 with the requirements of G.S. 115C-12(23) and any other applicable law or State Board
40 policy.

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42 **D. RETURN TO LEARNING**

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44 The superintendent or designee shall develop a plan that meets all the requirements of the

45 State Board of Education for addressing the needs of students in grades pre-K through 12
46 who suffer concussions. The superintendent or designee shall also arrange for
47 information and professional development to be provided annually to all teachers and
48 other school personnel on return-to-learn issues and other concerns related to concussion
49 and brain injuries. Parents and students must be offered the opportunity annually to
50 provide information related to any head injury or concussion the student may have
51 incurred during the past year on the health history and emergency medical information
52 update form.

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54 **E. EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS**

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56 Each principal or designee shall develop a venue-specific emergency action plan to
57 respond to serious medical injuries and acute medical conditions in which the condition
58 of the injured student may deteriorate rapidly. All such plans must include a delineation
59 of roles, methods of communication, available emergency equipment, and a plan for
60 emergency transport. The plans must be (1) in writing, (2) reviewed by an athletic trainer
61 who is licensed in North Carolina, (3) approved by the principal if developed by a
62 designee, (4) distributed, posted, reviewed, and rehearsed in accordance with G.S. 115C-
63 12(23), and (5) compliant with any other requirements of state law and State Board
64 policy.

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66 **F. ATHLETIC TRAINERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS**

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

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

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79 **G. RECORD KEEPING**

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81 The superintendent shall require each principal to maintain complete and accurate records
82 of actions taken in his or her school to comply with this policy and applicable legal
83 authority. Records shall include accounts of any education or training as may be required
84 by law or State Board of Education policy.

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86 The superintendent's annual report to the board on compliance with laws and policies
87 related to student wellness shall include a report on the system's compliance with laws
88 and policies related to concussions and head injuries. (See Section G of policy 6140,

89 Student Wellness.)

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91 Legal References: G.S. 115C-12(23); S.L. 2011-147; Article 34 Chapter 90; State Board of
92 Education Policies ~~HRS-DATHL-000~~, and ~~HRS-DATHL-003~~, ~~SHLT-001~~

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94 Cross References: Student Wellness (policy 6140)

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96 Other Resources: Matthew Gfeller Sport-Related TBI Research Center at UNC website,
97 http://tbicenter.unc.edu/MAG_Center/Home.html; *Report to the North Carolina General*
98 *Assembly: Study of Sports Injuries at Middle School and High School Levels*, N.C. Department
99 of Public Instruction (2011), available at

100 [http://www.ncleg.net/documentsites/committees/JLEOC/Reports%20Received/Archives/2011%](http://www.ncleg.net/documentsites/committees/JLEOC/Reports%20Received/Archives/2011%20Reports%20Received/Study%20of%20Sports%20Injuries%20at%20Middle%20and%20High%20School%20Levels.pdf)
101 [20Reports%20Received/Study%20of%20Sports%20Injuries%20at%20Middle%20and%20High](http://www.ncleg.net/documentsites/committees/JLEOC/Reports%20Received/Archives/2011%20Reports%20Received/Study%20of%20Sports%20Injuries%20at%20Middle%20and%20High%20School%20Levels.pdf)
102 [%20School%20Levels.pdf](http://www.ncleg.net/documentsites/committees/JLEOC/Reports%20Received/Archives/2011%20Reports%20Received/Study%20of%20Sports%20Injuries%20at%20Middle%20and%20High%20School%20Levels.pdf)

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104 Adopted: October 17, 2016

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106 Revised: [DATE] (legal references only)

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