The Benefit of School-Based Concussion & Team Policies

When a concussion happens to a student, it’s critical that the entire school community — staff, students, and parents — knows how to respond in ways that ensure the student’s best chance of recovery.

Max’s Law outlines specific responsibilities for school administrators. Under Max’s Law administrators must:

- Develop a list of coaches.
- Identify resources the district will use to provide training for all athletic coaches.
- Develop training timelines for coaches of all athletic teams.
- Ensure that coaches receive training every 12 months.
- Develop a tracking system to document that all coaches meet the training requirements.
- Ensure that no coach allows a member of a school athletic team to participate in any athletic event or training on the same calendar day the team member exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the head or body or a concussion diagnosis.
- Ensure that no coach allows a student who has been removed from play to return to an athletic event or training sooner than the day after the student experienced a blow to the head or body AND the student no longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion AND the student has received a medical release from a healthcare professional.

In addition to the legal requirements above, current best practice recommendations include developing a school-wide concussion management plan to ensure that concussed students receive appropriate academic accommodations as they recover from their injuries.

Tools:

- Sample School District Policy
- Classroom Accommodations and Modifications
- Post-Concussion Academic Accommodation Protocol
- Signs and Symptoms of Concussion
- Academic Accommodations Matrix
- Return to Academics
- Return to Play
- Concussion Management Team
- Concussion Management Plan