Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union Southwest Vermont Union Elementary School District Mount Anthony Union School District North Bennington Graded School District Arlington School District Sandgate School District	**CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT**	**Policy # 5120**

Statement of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to safeguard Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union, Southwest Vermont Union Elementary School District, Mount Anthony Union School District, North Bennington Graded School District, Arlington School District and Sandgate School District students who have experienced concussions. This policy provides context and clarity for students, school personnel, and parents/guardians in the following ways: (1) identifying concussions, (2) managing students' return to learn, and in the case of student athletes, return to play.

1. Applicability

This policy applies to all students, including athletes or non-athletes, who experience concussions. This includes concussions in or out of school. With respect to athletics, this policy applies to all students who participate in sponsored intramural, interscholastic, after school, or summer programs, including programs offered by a contracted vendor or partner. With respect to students, this policy applies to all students attending the school day in gym or recess

2. Definitions

Concussion: A concussion is a type of brain injury that changes the way the brain normally works. A concussion is caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head. Concussions can also occur from a fall or blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move rapidly back and forth. Even what seems to be a mild bump to the head can be serious.

Children and adolescents are among those at the greatest risk for concussion. The potential for a concussion is greatest during activities where collision can occur, such as during physical education class, playground time, or school-based sports activities. However, concussions can happen any time a student's head comes into contact with a hard object, such as a floor, desk, or another student's head or body. Recognition and response to the concussion can prevent further injury and help with recovery.

Licensed Healthcare Professional: Physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches in one of our surrounding regional states. These licensed professionals include medical doctors (MD or DO), Advanced Practice RN (APRN) or Physician's Assistant (PA). This may also include an athletic trainer, or other health care provider, licensed pursuant to Title 26, who has within the preceding five years been specifically trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and other head injuries.

Return to Learn: The steps and procedures required for a student to safely return to the academic environment, including physical education pursuant to the recommendation of their Licensed Health Care Professional.

Return to Play: The steps and procedures required for a student athlete to safely return to athletic participation and any age student return to recess and/or physical education pursuant to the recommendation of their Licensed Healthcare Professional.

* Students believed to have suffered a concussion may not return to athletic activities (organized sports, physical education and recess) until they have successfully resumed classroom activities.

*If a student received a concussion outside of any school activity, it is the parent/guardian responsibility to notify the school of the injury and follow up with medical evaluation.

	Date Warned	Date Adopted	Review Date	Replaces Policy	Administrative procedures completed
Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union	12/13/2023	5/22/2024			
Southwest Vermont Union Elementary School District	1/9/2024	4/9/2024			
Mount Anthony Union School District	12/20/2023				
North Bennington Graded School District	12/13/2023	4/10/2024			
Arlington School District	12/21/2023	4/10/2024			
Sandgate School District	12/14/2023				

Administrative Regulations for Policy #5120

1. Concussion Protocols:

A. Removal from School Programs: Any student who experiences a head injury or suspected concussion during the day will be removed from participation and assessed by the school nurse and /or Health Room Assistant. Parents will be notified promptly of the nature of the injury, in person or on the phone by a representative from the school so the parent can ensure that the student receives medical evaluation and treatment by their Licensed Health Care Professional.

***Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will be contacted if the student is experiencing loss of consciousness, seizures, persistent vomiting, amnesia, significant alteration or deterioration in mental status, and/or significant worsening of vital signs or other life-threatening behaviors and transported to the hospital. The nurse, athletic trainer, coach, or any appointed administrator will stay with the student until EMS is on scene.**

B. Removal from Play: Any student athlete exhibiting signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the athletic event or practice. Parents will be immediately contacted and the student shall not Return to Play until cleared in writing by their Licensed Health Care Professional. If any injured student has any of the signs, symptoms or behavior of a concussion, the student shall seek appropriate medical attention.

C. Return to Learn and Return to Play: The school nurse or Health Care Assistant must be notified when a student who is believed to have suffered a concussion returns to school. Any student who has experienced a concussion must return to school with medical documentation from their Licensed Health Care Professional with a diagnosis and a plan for how the student can first Return to Learn and Return to Play. Before a student returns to play, the student must be asymptomatic and engaged in full participation in all normal classroom activities.

D. Documentation:

1. All cases of suspected concussions that occur at school or during school-sponsored activities must have completed the Heads Up Concussion Signs and Symptoms and will be documented by nursing in the SNAP program if the event occurs during school hours.

2. Prior to participation in athletic programs, all student athletes must submit an annual sports history and physical. This physical should make note of any/all concussion history, so as to keep all involved aware should possible issues arise from such Further, in the case of student athletes who experience concussions, schools shall comply with the Return to Play documentation requirements and procedures.

3. High school athletic directors, coaches, gym teachers, school nurses and health room assistant must complete concussion awareness training and submit a certification of completion of the program minimally every 2 years.

4. Compliance:

Failure to comply with this policy may subject employees to discipline up to and including dismissal of employment.

5. Definitions:

Definitions. As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Coach" means a person who instructs or trains students on a school athletic team.

(2) "Collision sport" means football, hockey, lacrosse, or wrestling.

(3) "Contact sport" means a sport, other than football, hockey, lacrosse, or wrestling, defined as a contact sport by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

(4) "Health care provider" means an athletic trainer, or other health care provider, licensed pursuant to Title 26, who has within the preceding five years been specifically trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and other head injuries. Training pursuant to this subdivision shall include training materials and guidelines for practicing physicians provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, if available.

(5) "School athletic team" means an interscholastic athletic team or club sponsored by a public or approved independent school for elementary or secondary students.

(6) "Youth athlete" means an elementary or secondary student who is a member of a school athletic team.

Guidelines and other information. The Secretary of Education or designee, assisted by members of the Vermont Principals' Association selected by that association, members of the Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust, and others as the Secretary deems appropriate, shall develop statewide guidelines, forms, and other materials, and update them when that are designed to educate coaches, youth athletes, and the parents and guardians of youth athletes regarding:

(1) the nature and risks of concussions and other head injuries;

(2) the risks of premature participation in athletic activities after receiving a concussion or other head injury;

(3) the importance of obtaining a medical evaluation of a suspected concussion or other head injury and receiving treatment when necessary;

(4) effective methods to reduce the risk of concussions occurring during athletic activities; and

(5) protocols and standards for clearing a youth athlete to return to play following a concussion or other head injury, including treatment plans for such athletes.

Notice and training. The principal or headmaster of each public and approved independent school in the State, or a designee, shall ensure that:

(1) the information developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section is provided annually to each youth athlete and the athlete's parents or guardians;

(2) each youth athlete and a parent or guardian of the athlete annually sign a form acknowledging receipt of the information provided pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and return it to the school prior to the athlete's participation in training or competition associated with a school athletic team;

(3)

(A) each coach of a school athletic team receive training no less frequently than every two years on how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion or other head injury, how to reduce the risk of concussions during athletic activities, and how to teach athletes the proper techniques for avoiding concussions; and

(B) each coach who is new to coaching at the school receive training prior to beginning his or her first coaching assignment for the school; and

(4) Each referee of a contest involving a high school athletic team participating in a collision sport receives training not less than every two years on how to recognize concussions when they occur during athletic activities.

Concussion Protocol: https://docs.google.com/document/d/17WmRYl-Gc4Got7Qduregp87ty_KdIlcSL8cTmEff4tg/edit?usp=sharing

References:

HEADS UP to Youth Sports | HEADS UP | CDC Injury Center

Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union Concussion Protocol

AOE, Concussion Guidelines; Act No. 58, 40of 2011, Act No.68, 2 of 2013 which are codified in 16 V.S.A. 1431