

CONCUSSION AWARENESS AND PREVENTION POLICY

The school board is committed to providing all students with a safe learning environment. In recognition of the risks that concussions pose to our student athletes, the school district will provide appropriate concussion awareness education and prevention programs.

AWARENESS: The district will follow guidelines developed by the South Dakota High School Activities Association and South Dakota Department of Education to educate coaches, student athletes and parents of the nature and risks of concussions. On an annual basis, the district will distribute a concussion information sheet to all parents or legal guardians of student athletes. No student may practice or compete in any school sanctioned athletic activity until the parent or guardian and student return to the district a signed acknowledgement that indicates they have reviewed and understand material presented in the concussion information sheet.

TRAINING: Each year, every athletic coach, including volunteer coaches, shall complete a training program to provide continuing education on the risks and management of concussions. No coach shall be allowed to participate in any way in the district's athletic program until the individual provides to the district verification that he or she has completed the required training.

BASELINE TESTING REQUIREMENT: Baseline concussion testing is a critical part of accurate future concussion assessment. Baseline concussion testing provides a baseline score of an athlete's attention span, working memory, reaction time, etc. If the athlete suffers a concussion or is suspected of having received a concussion, he or she is evaluated with the baseline concussion test results being part of that evaluation process. Commencing with the 2012-2013 school year, any student participating in one or more athletic programs of the Montrose School District must complete a baseline concussion test prior to participating in any District athletic program for the first time. Students entering 7 grade, 9th grade and 11 grade will be required to take the baseline test before competing in any activities. The athletic director will conduct these test in the spring of the school year

REMOVAL FROM PARTICIPATION: An athlete shall be removed from participation in any athletic activity sanctioned by the South Dakota High School Activities Association at the time the athlete (1) exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, or (2) is suspected of sustaining a concussion.

RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES: Any athlete who has been removed from participation during a practice or competition based on a suspected concussion may not participate in practice or competition until the athlete no longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behavior consistent with a concussion and receives an evaluation by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and receives written clearance to return to play from such health care provider. For the purpose of this policy, a licensed health care provider is (1) registered, certified, licensed, or other wise recognized in law by the State of South Dakota to provide

medical treatment, and (2) trained and experienced in the evaluation, management and care of concussions.

Adopted: September 12, 2011

Amended April 9, 2012

Amended March 11, 2019

Legal Refs: SDCL 13-36-9 through SDCL 13-26-13, inclusive.