

## CONCUSSION PROTOCOL FOR TSSAA OFFICIALS DURING TSSAA/TMSAA CONTESTS

1. Determine prior to the start of the contest whether or not a school has access to a designated health care provider during the contest.
2. Continue to monitor players for possible signs of injury as usual.
3. Remove any player that shows signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion per NFHS rules.
4. Inform the head coach that the player is being removed for showing signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion.
5. The school shall have the player examined by their designated health care provider. If the designated health care provider determines that the student has not sustained a concussion, the head coach may so advise the officials during an appropriate stoppage of play and the athlete may re-enter competition pursuant to contest rules.
6. The head coach is in charge of getting clearance from the school's designated healthcare provider.
7. If the school does not have access to a designated health care provider, or if the school's designated health care provider suspects that the athlete may have sustained a concussion, the only means for an athlete to return to practice or play is for the student to be evaluated and cleared by a licensed medical doctor (M.D.), Osteopathic Physician (D.O.) or a Clinical Neuropsychologist with Concussion Training.
8. If signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion are observed by an official, and a designated health care provider is not available to evaluate the student athlete, the "TSSAA Concussion Return to Play" form MUST be completed and signed by a licensed medical doctor (M.D.), Osteopathic Physician (D. O.) or a Clinical Neuropsychologist with concussion training, and shown to the official(s) by the head coach prior to a student-athlete returning to participate in a contest the same day.
9. If a player that has been removed by an official for showing signs, symptoms, and behaviors consistent with a concussion is allowed to return to play during the contest, an "Unusual Occurrence Form" shall be filed with the state office by the official within 24 hours of the incident.
10. Officials have no role in the diagnosis of a concussion. NFHS Rules do require that the officials remove players from the contest when signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion are observed and the above written protocol must be followed.

Designated Health Care Providers – Certified Athletic Trainer, Certified Nurse Practitioner, Physicians' Assistant, Doctor of Medicine, Osteopathic Physician