

School leaders received the email below yesterday regarding new Concussion Management Protocols that must be implemented in our Catholic Schools beginning on 7/1/2023 per the [June 1, 2023 Board of Regents Meeting](#). Details are in the attached. Please see below for the new requirements along with some advice from me on each new requirement:

1. Ensure their coaches, physical education teachers, school nurses and athletic trainers to biennially complete a course approved by the Department, related to recognizing the symptoms of mild traumatic brain injuries.
 - Training links can be found on this webpage: [Concussion | Mild Traumatic Brain Injury \(mTBI\) \(schoolhealthny.com\)](#)
 - For Nurses: [HEADS UP to Healthcare Providers Online Training for School Health Professionals](#) (1 hour). This course is a free NYSED-approved course for school nurses and must be completed every two years.
 - Coaches & PE Teachers can choose one of the following:
 - [HEADS UP to Youth Sports: Online Training for Coaches](#) (45 minutes)
This course is a free NYSED-approved course for coaches and PE teachers and must be completed every two years.
 - [Concussion in Sports Course](#) (1 hour)
This course is a free NYSED-approved course for coaches and PE teachers and must be completed every two years. It is available in both English and Spanish.
 - Certified Athletic Trainers can choose from the below NYSED-approved concussion training courses:
 - [HEADS UP to Healthcare Providers Online Training for School Health Professionals](#) (1 hour)
This course is a free NYSED-approved course for certified athletic trainers and must be completed every two years.
 - [HEADS UP to Athletic Trainers: Online Concussion Training](#) (2 hours)
This course is a free NYSED-approved course for certified athletic trainers and must be completed every two years.
2. Include information on concussions and/or reference how to obtain information on concussions from the [New York State Education Department](#) and [New York State Department of Health](#) websites on their permission or consent forms for students to participate interscholastic sports.
 - https://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/FinalConcussionGuidelines7_6_2022PDF.pdf
 - Additional resources can be found on the [New York State Center for School Health's Concussion/Mild Traumatic Brain Injury \(mTBI\) website](#).
 - Permission and Consent forms can be found here under "Athletic Forms/Letters/Notifications" and "Concussion/Traumatic Brain Injury": [Health Services Samples & Forms / Overview \(schoolhealthny.com\)](#)
 - NYDOH Sports-Related Concussion Webpage: [Sports-Related Concussion \(ny.gov\)](#)

3. Immediately remove from athletic activity any student suspected of having sustained a mild traumatic brain injury (a.k.a. concussion). The student:
 - Is not permitted to return to athletic activity until they have been symptom free for not less than 24 hours;
 - Has been evaluated by and received written authorization from a licensed physician to return.
 - The authorization is required to be kept in the student's permanent health record.
4. Nonpublic schools must follow any guidance from the student's treating healthcare provider regarding limitations on school attendance and activities for a student who has been diagnosed with a concussion regardless of where the injury occurred.
5. Additionally, nonpublic schools can choose to establish a concussion management team to oversee the implementation of these requirements. The concussion management team may establish a program which provides information on mild traumatic brain injuries to parents/guardians.
 - See page 23 of [Concussion Guidelines \(nysed.gov\)](#) for more information on Concussion Management Teams. [Section \(e\) of the actual law language](#) also describes this option briefly.

Details are included in the Guidelines for Concussion Management in Schools available on the [NYSED:SSS:School Health Services webpage](#)

- I found the main document for Concussion Management that now applies to our schools here: [Concussion Guidelines \(nysed.gov\)](#)
- The actual law language can be found here: [136.5 Concussion management and awareness - NY Codes, Rules, & Regs \(westlaw.com\)](#)

Please take some time to meet with your Athletic Directors in the next week to discuss these new requirements and how you plan to implement them for the 2023-2024 school year before your summer athletic practices. Remember, all coaches, physical education teachers, school nurses, and athletic trainers must complete one of the free training sessions linked in this email before the school year begins.

The attached memo indicated that questions about this new requirement should be directed to the Office of Student Support Services at studentsupportservices@nysed.gov or 518-486-6090. Please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance navigating this new information.