

Concussion or Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI) in the Athlete

Note: In 2008, the IHSAA has issued a mandate that special emphasis be placed on head injuries and new rules have been adopted that allow any official to remove an athlete from participation if they suspect a head injury. Removal by an official results in an automatic 10 day suspension from all activity. They have also issued a statement that all schools should use ImPACT testing as part of their head injury protocol. April 2011, Indiana State Legislature passed a law requiring all student athletes to be pre-tested using a recognized testing method, and requires any athlete suspected of a concussion to be evaluated by a “sport concussion specialist” prior to return. The Law also requires all student-athletes and parents to attend and receive concussion education.

Franklin County has access to an important tool in the evaluation and diagnosis of head injuries. Through a special program we will have access to the ImPACT system which is a computer based program that has been specifically designed to evaluate any person who is suspected of having a head injury.

All students and athletes in grades 9-12 at Franklin County will take the ImPACT test to establish a baseline score. No student/athlete will be allowed to participate until they have a baseline. When anyone is suspected to have incurred any type of head injury they are required to take follow-up test and have an evaluation by a physician licensed in the State of Indiana as a “Sport Concussion Specialist”. No student/athlete will be allowed to return to participation until they have been evaluated by a sport concussion specialist who has ImPACT testing available, their ImPACT test returns to baseline and they pass a full functional exam with no symptoms. All post-injury computerized testing will be done at the physician’s office or with the athletic trainer (if available) . The FCHS medical staff will proceed as advised by the physician and keep parents informed of all information and will also help to schedule office evaluations if needed.

Head injuries are very dangerous and the utmost caution will be used when evaluating students and athletes and determining a return to participation. A complete and comprehensive history of head trauma will be kept and used as an evaluation tool for each student/athlete. In accordance with Indiana State Law and FCCSC policy, any student/athlete who refused to take the ImPACT test will not be allowed to participate in any interscholastic or club activity. They will also not be allowed to participate in band, choir, physical education or homecoming activities. Any student/athlete who does not obtain medical counsel and evaluation if so requested by the medical staff at FCHS will be ineligible to participate.

Indiana State Licensed “Sport Concussion Specialist”

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