

## **NJSIAA OFFICIALS' CONCUSSION POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

In light of the ever-increasing awareness of the traumatic effects of concussions and head and neck traumas that student athletes suffer during practices and games, NJSIAA, along with its Medical Advisory Board, have developed an Official NJSIAA Policy Statement and it applies to Concussions Identification, Management and Return-To-Play.

The National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) has included in every sports' rule book a "Concussion Rule" and has created a free, 20 minute online course that every student athlete, parent, coach, athletic trainer, physician employed by the schools, and official is recommended to take. Go to [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com) and click on the Concussion Course link.

NJSIAA officials **WILL NOT BE** rendering a decision as to whether a student athlete has exhibited or is exhibiting signs and symptoms that are consistent with a concussion. That decision will be made by a member of the coaching staff, athletic trainer or physician employed by the school or school district.

NJSIAA officials **WILL BE** required to do the following:

Upon observing a student athlete who has received a blow or contact to the face, head, back and/or neck, and in the official's judgment the student athlete is initially injured due to the blow or contact, the official shall:

- 1) Immediately call time out.
- 2) Beckon the coach/athletic trainer of the injured player onto the playing surface.
- 3) Say something to this effect: "Coach/trainer your player took a blow to the head/neck/back/that in my judgment may have caused the player to be injured. Please tend to your player." Please do not say anything about that you think the player might be showing signs of a concussion. This decision is to be left to the coach/trainer/physician. Step aside and observe.
- 4) Upon tending to his/her player, if the coach/trainer has determine that the player is not injured or showing signs of a concussion, then follow the playing rules of that sport as it pertains to removal from a game because the coach had to be beckoned onto the playing surface. Most sports say that in this case the player must leave the game till the next stoppage of the game of the next available substitution period by rule.

NOTE: If a student athlete is removed from the game by a coach/trainer/physician because he/she is exhibiting signs/symptoms that are consistent with a concussion, under NJSIAA Policy, that student athlete **MAY NOT** return to play at all during that day/night no matter what. This is different than the NFHS policy.

This policy and procedure has been adopted to protect the officials. Adhere to it!