



POLICY – 614

Concussion Management

Area: Student Conduct and Safety

Source: Superintendent of Education – Safe and Accepting Schools

Approved: January 6, 2015 (Interim); February 9, 2015

Revised: January 27, 2020 (Interim); November 9, 2020; May 6, 2024

1. Introduction

The Durham Catholic District School Board (the “Board”) is committed to helping all students lead successful, safe, healthy and active lives. As part of its commitment to student safety, injury prevention and well-being, the Board promotes sound practices to address concussion safety across all school and school board activities.

2. Definitions

Coach (*Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education*) – any individual approved by the principal or designate.

Concussion (*PPM158 School Board Policies on Concussion*) – a clinical diagnosis that is communicated by a medical doctor or a nurse practitioner:

- a brain injury that causes changes in the way in which the brain functions and that can lead to symptoms that can be physical (e.g., headache, dizziness), cognitive (e.g., difficulty in concentrating or remembering), emotional/behavioural (e.g., depression, irritability), and/or related to sleep (e.g., drowsiness, difficulty in falling asleep);
- may be caused either by a direct blow to the head, face, or neck or by a blow to the body that transmits a force to the head that causes the brain to move rapidly within the skull;
- can occur even if there has been no loss of consciousness (in fact most concussions occur without a loss of consciousness);
- cannot normally be seen by means of medical imaging tests, such as X-rays, standard computed tomography (CT) scans, or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans.

Interscholar Sports (*Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education*) – school-sponsored, competitive programs which involve competitions against outside teams.

Team Trainer (*Rowan's Law ((Concussion Safety), 2018)*) – an individual who is assigned by a sport organization to respond to athlete injuries.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to raise awareness about the seriousness of concussions by educating and empowering students, staff and parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s) to prevent, identify potential symptoms and manage concussions, in compliance with Rowan's Law.

4. Application / Scope

This policy applies to all students, staff, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s) and school approved volunteers across all schools and school board activities, both on and off Board property.

5. Principles

5.1 The Board recognizes that:

5.1.1 the conduct of students, staff, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s) and volunteers must be consistent with Gospel values, the Board's mission, vision and values and all requirements set forth by the Education Act and its applicable Regulations.

5.1.2 the safety of students, staff, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s) and volunteers is paramount.

5.1.3 all brain injuries, like concussions, can have a serious impact on student achievement and well-being.

5.1.4 it has responsibility to provide safety information to students, staff, volunteers and parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s) about the management and prevention of concussions in a timely manner and at a minimum once per school year.

5.1.5 all staff, students, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s) and volunteer(s) have a role in managing and preventing concussions.

5.1.6 concussion awareness, prevention, identification, management, tracking and training in schools is a priority.

6. Requirements

6.1 The Director of Education, or designate, shall issue administrative procedures to support this policy and amend them thereafter as the need may arise.

- 6.2 The Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education (OPASSE) Concussion Protocol outlines the minimum standard for risk management practices related to concussions.
- 6.3 The Board will ensure that the approved Rowan's Law: Concussion Awareness Resources are made available to all stakeholders in a variety of formats.
- 6.4 Concussion awareness training for relevant school staff shall take place by the last Wednesday in September (Rowan's Law Day) every school year.
- 6.5 The Board will review the established Concussion Codes of Conduct for coach/team trainer, students, parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s) annually.
- 6.6 The Board must receive confirmation every school year that the relevant Concussion Code of Conduct was reviewed prior to participation in Board-sponsored interschool sports.
- 6.7 The Board will refer to the OPASSE Concussion Protocol when developing the process for the identification of suspected concussions that occur during school activities or events, and during interschool sports.
- 6.8 The Board will refer to the OPASSE Concussion Protocol when developing a Return to School Plan for students who have been diagnosed with a concussion, regardless of whether the concussion was sustained at school or elsewhere.
- 6.9 The Board recognizes the sensitive nature of personal health information and will collect, use, and disclose only the relevant diagnostic information needed in accordance with relevant privacy legislation (MFIPPA, PHIPA).

7. Sources

- 7.1 [Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2., 27.1 Subsection 8\(1\)](#)
- 7.2 [Ministry of Education, Policy/Program Memorandum 158, School Board Policies on Concussion, 2019](#)
- 7.3 [Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education, 2019](#)
- 7.4 [Concussion Awareness Resources, Government of Ontario](#)
- 7.5 [Concussion Protocol, Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education](#)
- 7.6 [Rowan's Law \(Concussion Safety\), 2018](#)

8. Related Policies and Administrative Procedures

- 8.1 [Concussion Management Administrative Procedure \(AP614-1\)](#)