

How do I comply with the Gfeller-Waller Law?

The following is a guide to steps that will help you, the school administrator, comply with the Gfeller-Waller Law.

EDUCATE those involved with interscholastic athletic activities.

- Student-athletes will be provided with the STUDENT CONCUSSION INFORMATION FORM.
 - Students shall read, initial, sign, and return the STUDENT-ATHLETE CONCUSSION STATEMENT form.
- Parents, Coaches, school nurses, athletic directors, first responders, volunteers will be provided with the ADULT CONCUSSION INFORMATION FORM.
 - All above adults shall read, initial and return the COACH/SCHOOL NURSE/PARENT/VOLUNTEER CONCUSSION STATEMENT form.

(It is at the discretion of each educational institution to identify who will distribute, collect, and maintain the above forms.)

PLAN for what will happen when an injury occurs.

Concussion

If a student-athlete exhibits signs and symptoms consistent with a concussion (even if not formally diagnosed), the student-athlete is to be removed from play and is not allowed to return to play (game, practice, or conditioning) on that day.

Student-athletes are encouraged to report their own symptoms, or to report if peers may have concussion symptoms. Coaches, parents, volunteers, first responders, school nurse, licensed athletic trainers (if available), are responsible for removing a student-athlete from play if they suspect a concussion.

Following the injury, the student-athlete should be evaluated by a qualified medical professional with training in concussion management. It is strongly recommended that each institution seek qualified medical professionals in the surrounding community to serve as resources in the area of concussion management.

In order for a student- athlete to return to play without restriction, he/she must have written clearance from appropriate medical personnel. The form that should be used for this written clearance is posted on this website.

Emergency Action Plan

Each school should have a venue specific Emergency Action Plan (EAP) that follows the specifications outlined in the EAP guidelines on the website.

This plan should be:

1. in writing,
2. reviewed by an athletic trainer licensed in North Carolina,
3. approved by the principal of the school,
4. distributed to all appropriate personnel,
5. posted conspicuously at all venues, and
6. reviewed and rehearsed annually by all licensed athletic trainers, first responders, coaches, school nurses, athletic directors, and volunteers for interscholastic athletic activities.

Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act Compliance Checklist

This checklist is designed to help each school be compliant with the Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act. All forms can be found on the home page website for the Gfeller-Waller Law AND under the specific sections on the website. According to the law, "each school shall maintain complete and accurate records of its compliance with the requirements ..." Beside each component is a checkbox each school can use as they complete the compliance steps each year.

Educational Compliance

1. Distribution of Concussion Information Sheet to student-athletes
 All fall sports All winter sports All spring sports
2. Signature forms (Concussion Information Sheet) collected from student-athletes
 All fall sports All winter sports All spring sports
3. Distribution of Concussion Information Sheet to parents/coaches/school nurses/volunteers
 All fall sports All winter sports All spring sports
4. Signature forms (Concussion Information Sheet) collected from parents/coaches/school nurses/volunteers
 All fall sports All winter sports All spring sports

Post-Concussion Protocol/Plan Compliance

A Postconcussion Plan in place that at a minimum includes:

1. No same day return-to-play for any student-athlete exhibiting signs and symptoms consistent with concussion.
2. Written clearance (use the form on the Gfeller-Waller Law website) by a medical professional trained in concussion management prior to return-to-play/practice for any athlete exhibiting signs and symptoms consistent with concussion.

Emergency Action Plan Compliance

1. The school must have a venue specific Emergency Action Plan reviewed by an Athletic Trainer Licensed in North Carolina (LAT). If your school has an LAT, that person can review the EAP. If your school needs an LAT to review the plan, you can email the plan to: eap@ncathletictrainer.org. An LAT will review the plan and return it to the individual that emailed the plan for review.
2. The Emergency Action Plan shall include a delineation of roles, methods of communication, available emergency equipment, and access to and plan for emergency transport.
3. The Emergency Action Plan must be in writing.
4. The Emergency Action Plan must be provided to all coaches, administrators, volunteers, etc. involved in interscholastic athletics.
5. The Emergency Action Plan must be posted conspicuously at all venues.
6. The Emergency Action Plan must be annually reviewed and rehearsed by all licensed athletic trainers (LAT), first responders, coaches, school nurses, athletic directors, and volunteers for interscholastic athletics.
7. The Emergency Action Plan must be approved by the school principal.

Concussion education statement forms for all sports have been checked against sport rosters and are currently on file with _____.

(name of person holding forms)

- All fall sports All winter sports All spring sports

PRINCIPAL'S SIGNATURE (OR DESIGNEE): _____ DATE: _____