

## Concussion Management Protocols for PIAA Officials

Concussion Management continues to be a very important point of emphasis in every interscholastic sporting activity. Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as a loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared by the appropriate health-care professional.

When sending an athlete out of a contest, the official should advise the head coach that the player is being removed from competition due to the athlete exhibiting concussion like symptoms.

Neither officials, nor coaches, are expected to “diagnose” a concussion, as that is the responsibility of an appropriate health-care professional. The game official is not responsible for the sideline evaluation or management of the athlete after he or she is removed from play.

The responsibility of further evaluating and managing the symptomatic athlete falls upon the head coach, appropriate health-care professional or other individual designated by the school administrators.

The official does not need written permission for an athlete to return nor does the official need to verify the credentials of the appropriate health-care professional.

If a player returns to the competition the official should just monitor them in the same manner prior to them being sent out originally.

Those wishing to learn more on this topic can register and attend a course sponsored by NFHS by using this link: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/concussion-in-sports-2>

