



STATE LAW REGARDING SPORTS-RELATED INJURY & CONCUSSION

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services now requires that all schools subject to the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) adhere to a new law regarding sports-related head injuries and concussions. The law requires:

1. Athletes and their parents to inform their coaches about prior head injuries at the beginning of the season.
2. If a student athlete becomes unconscious or suffers a known or suspected concussion during a game or practice, the law now mandates taking the student out of play or practice, and requires written certification from a licensed medical professional for "return to play".
3. The student's parents or legal guardian (as well as coaches, athletic directors, school nurses and physicians and others) learn about the consequences of head injuries and concussions through training programs and written materials. As a result of the new law, parents or legal guardians of students who plan to participate in any athletic program at The Pike School must take a free on-line course to educate themselves about sports-related head injuries and concussions. The state has made available a free online course that contains all the information required by the law. It is available through the National Federation of High School Coaches. You will need to click the "order here" button and complete a brief information form to register. At the end of the course, you will receive a completion receipt. The entire course, including registration can be completed in less than 30 minutes.

<http://www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=15000>

Please sign below that you have read the above and completed one of the courses listed.

This is required before sports practice commences in order to participate on any athletic team at The Pike School. Forms must be returned before the first day of practice.

Thank you very much.

Parent/Guardian

Date

Student

Date

Physical Examination for Sports

Athletes must pass a physical examination each year before participation in any sport.

This must be done prior to the first practice session. No athlete will be issued equipment or participate in organized practice or scheduled games until he/she has given the School Nurse a current physical examination form from a duly registered physician, physician's assistant or a nurse practitioner.

In order for an exam to be considered current and valid, it must be dated within 13 months of the date of any athletic involvement. It is strongly recommended that an annual examination be scheduled between June and August each school year.