

Students Physicals for
2019-20 7-12 graders
Friday, April 12, 2019
At NORTH HARRISON SCHOOL

Cost is \$15 per student

(Make checks payable to North Harrison School. All money paid is donated back to the school to be used for items to help our students stay physically fit. Donations above \$15 are accepted)

Due with returned forms **on or before March 29**

*EVERY question MUST be answered

*The form MUST be signed by a parent

*Insurance MUST be noted

*The form MUST be signed by the student

Each packet also contains information on

CONCUSSIONS

KEEP this information for future reference!

RETURN ONLY the TWO physical exam information sheets

A physical is REQUIRED if trying-out or participating in cheerleading, softball, baseball, football, basketball and/or track

A physical exam is recommended for marching band students

Physicals will be done by

Dr. Caleb Guernsey, DC from Bethany

Darcy Morey, Family Nurse Practitioner with Eagleville Med Clinic

North Harrison Med Clinic

Staff from the Therapy Department of the Harrison County Community Hospital will conduct baseline concussion test for new students

Volunteer nurses from our community will assist with blood pressure, height, weight, hearing, and skin checks

The Harrison County Health Department Staff will be here to administer FREE immunizations

(Tdap booster and Meningitis vaccination to those students who will be in 8th grade next year,
Meningitis vaccination to those students who will be SENIORS next year)

This physical is valid for spring cheerleading try-outs, summer camps, and the entire 19-20 school year

(A physical dated on or after February 1, 2018 is valid for the 2018-19 school year)

This is a great opportunity for ANY student to have a check-up!

PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION HISTORY FORM

(Note: This form is to be filled out by the patient and parent prior to seeing the physician. The physician should keep a copy of this form in the chart for their records).

Date of Exam:				
Name:			Date of Birth:	
Sex:	Age:	Grade:	School:	Sport(s):
Medicines and Allergies: Please list all of the prescription and over-the-counter medicines and supplements (herbal and nutritional) that you are currently taking:				
Do you have any allergies: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, please identify specific allergy below:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Medicines:		<input type="checkbox"/> Pollens:		<input type="checkbox"/> Food: <input type="checkbox"/> Stinging Insects:

Explain "Yes" answers below. Circle questions you do not know the answer to.

GENERAL QUESTIONS	Yes	No
1. Has a doctor ever denied or restricted your participation in sports for any reason?		
2. Do you have any ongoing medical conditions? If so, please identify below: <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma <input type="checkbox"/> Anemia <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> Infections Other:		
3. Have you ever spent the night in the hospital?		
4. Have you ever had surgery?		
HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU	Yes	No
5. Have you ever passed out or nearly passed out DURING or AFTER exercise?		
6. Have you ever had discomfort, pain, tightness, or pressure in your chest during exercise?		
7. Does your heart ever race or skip beats (irregular beats) during exercise?		
8. Has a doctor ever told you that you have any heart problems? If so, check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> High blood pressure <input type="checkbox"/> A heart murmur <input type="checkbox"/> High cholesterol <input type="checkbox"/> A heart infection <input type="checkbox"/> Kawasaki disease <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
9. Has a doctor ever ordered a test for your heart? (For example, ECG/EKG, echocardiogram)		
10. Do you get lightheaded or feel more short of breath than expected during exercise?		
11. Have you ever had an unexplained seizure?		
12. Do you get more tired or short of breath more quickly than your friends during exercise?		
HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY	Yes	No
13. Has any family member or relative died of heart problems or had an unexpected or unexplained sudden death before age 50 (including drowning, unexplained car accident, or sudden infant death syndrome)?		
14. Does anyone in your family have hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, Marfan syndrome, arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy, long QT syndrome, short QT syndrome, Brugada syndrome, or catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia?		
15. Does anyone in your family have a heart problem, pacemaker, or implanted defibrillator?		
16. Has anyone in your family had unexplained fainting, unexplained seizures, or near drowning?		
BONE AND JOINT QUESTIONS	Yes	No
17. Have you ever had an injury to a bone, muscle, ligament, or tendon that caused you to miss a practice or a game?		
18. Have you ever had any broken or fractured bones or dislocated joints?		
19. Have you ever had an injury that required x-rays, MRI, CT scan, injections, therapy, a brace, a cast, or crutches?		
20. Have you ever had a stress fracture?		
21. Have you ever been told that you have or have you had an x-ray for neck instability or atlantoaxial instability? (Down syndrome or dwarfism)		
22. Do you regularly use a brace, orthotics, or other assistive device?		
23. Do you have a bone, muscle, or joint injury that bothers you?		
24. Do any of your joints become painful, swollen, feel warm, or look red?		
25. Do you have any history of juvenile arthritis or connective tissue disease?		

MEDICAL QUESTIONS	Yes	No
26. Do you cough, wheeze, or have difficulty breathing during or after exercise?		
27. Have you ever used an inhaler or taken asthma medicine?		
28. Is there anyone in your family who has asthma?		
29. Were you born without or are you missing a kidney, an eye, a testicle (males) or spleen, or any other organ?		
30. Do you have groin pain or a painful bulge or hernia in the groin area?		
31. Have you had infectious mononucleosis (mono) within the last month?		
32. Do you have any rashes, pressure sores, or other skin problems?		
33. Have you had a herpes or MRSA skin infection?		
34. Have you ever had a head injury or concussion?		
35. Have you ever had a hit or blow to the head that caused confusion, prolonged headaches, or memory problems?		
36. Do you have a history of seizure disorder?		
37. Do you have headaches with exercise?		
38. Have you ever had numbness, tingling, or weakness in your arms or legs after being hit or falling?		
39. Have you ever been unable to move your arms or legs after being hit or falling?		
40. Have you ever become ill while exercising in the heat?		
41. Do you get frequent muscle cramps when exercising?		
42. Do you or someone in your family have sickle cell trait or disease?		
43. Have you had any problems with your eyes or vision?		
44. Have you had any eye injuries?		
45. Do you wear glasses or contact lenses?		
46. Do you wear protective eyewear, such as goggles or a face shield?		
47. Do you worry about your weight?		
48. Are you trying to or has anyone recommended that you gain or lose weight?		
49. Are you on a special diet or do you avoid certain types of foods?		
50. Have you ever had an eating disorder?		
51. Do you have any concerns that you would like to discuss with the doctor?		
FEMALES ONLY	Yes	No
52. Have you ever had a menstrual period?		
53. How old were you when you had your first menstrual period?		
54. How many periods have you had in the last 12 months?		
<p align="center">Explain "Yes" answers here:</p>		

I hereby state that, to the best of my knowledge, my answers to the above questions are complete and correct.		
Signature of Athlete:	Signature of Parent(s) or Guardian:	Date:

PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FORM

Name:	Date of Birth:
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Physician Reminders:

1. Consider additional questions on more sensitive issues.
 - Do you feel stressed out or under a lot of pressure?
 - Do you ever feel sad, hopeless, depressed, or anxious?
 - Do you feel safe at your home or residence?
 - Have you ever tried cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip?
 - During the past 30 days, did you use chewing tobacco, snuff or dip?
 - Do you drink alcohol or use any other drugs?
 - Have you ever taken anabolic steroids or used any other performance supplements?
 - Have you ever taken any supplements to help you gain or lose weight or improve your performance?
 - Do you wear a seat belt, use a helmet, and use condoms?
2. Consider reviewing questions on cardiovascular symptoms (Questions 5-14).

EXAMINATION

Height:	Weight:	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
BP: / (/)	Pulse:	Vision: R 20/ L 20/	Corrected: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

MEDICAL	NORMAL	ABNORMAL FINDINGS
Appearance • Marfan stigmata (kyphoscoliosis, high-arched palate, pectus excavatum, arachnodactyly, arm span>height, hyperlaxity, myopia, MVP, aortic insufficiency)		
Eyes/Ears/Nose/Throat • Pupils equal • Hearing		
Lymph Nodes		
Heart* • Murmurs (auscultation standing, supine, +/- Valsalva) • Location of point of maximal pulse (PMI)		
Pulses • Simultaneous femoral and radial pulses		
Lungs		
Abdomen		
Genitourinary (males only)**		
Skin • HSV, lesions suggestive of MRSA, tinea corporis		
Neurologic***		
MUSCULOSKELETAL	NORMAL	ABNORMAL FINDINGS
Neck		
Back		
Shoulder/arm		
Elbow/forearm		
Hip/thigh		
Knee		
Leg/ankle		
Foot/toes		
Functional • Duck-walk, single leg hop		

* Consider ECG, echocardiogram, and referral to cardiology for abnormal cardiac history or exam; **Consider GU exam if in private setting. Having third party present is recommended.
***Consider cognitive evaluation or baseline neuropsychiatric testing if a history of significant concussion.

Cleared for all sports without restriction.

Cleared for all sports without restriction with recommendations for further evaluation or treatment for:

Not Cleared

Pending further evaluation

For any sports

For certain sports (please list):

Reason:

Recommendations:

I have examined the above-named student and completed the pre-participation physical evaluation. The athlete does not present apparent clinical contraindications to practice and participate in the sport(s) as outlined above. A copy of the physical exam is on record in my office and can be made available to the school at the request of the parents. If conditions arise after the athlete has been cleared for participation, the physician may rescind the clearance until the problem is resolved and the potential consequences are completely explained to the athlete (and parents/guardians).

Name of Physician (type/print):	Date:
Address:	Phone:
Signature of Physician (MD/DO/ARNP/PA/Chiropractor):	

PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION
Missouri State High School Activity Association (MSHSAA) Eligibility and Authorization Statement

STUDENT AGREEMENT (Regarding Conditions for Participation)

This application to represent my school in interscholastic athletics is entirely voluntary on my part and is made with the understanding that I have studied and understand the eligibility standards that I must meet to represent my school and that I have not violated any of them.

I have read, understand, and acknowledge receipt of the MSHSAA brochure entitled "How to Maintain and Protect Your High School Eligibility," which contains a summary of the eligibility rules of the MSHSAA. (I understand that a copy of the *MSHSAA Handbook* is on file with the principal and athletic administrator and that I may review it in its entirety, if I so choose. All MSHSAA by-laws and regulations from the *Handbook* are also posted on the MSHSAA website at www.mshsaa.org).

I understand that a MSHSAA member school must adhere to all rules and regulations that pertain to school-sponsored, interscholastic athletics programs, and I acknowledge that local rules may be more stringent than MSHSAA rules.

I also understand that if I do not meet the citizenship standards set by the school or if I am ejected from an interscholastic contest because of an unsportsmanlike act, it could result in me not being allowed to participate in the next contest or suspension from the team either temporarily or permanently.

I understand that if I drop a class, take course work through Post -Secondary Enrollment Option, Credit Flexibility, or other educational options, this action could affect compliance with MSHSAA academic standards and my eligibility.

I understand that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege and not a right. As a student athlete, I understand and accept the following responsibilities:

- I will respect the rights and beliefs of others and will treat others with courtesy and consideration.
- I will be fully responsible for my own actions and the consequences of my actions.
- I will respect the property of others.
- I will respect and obey the rules of my school and laws of my community, state, and country.
- I will show respect to those who are responsible for enforcing the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state, and country.

I have completed and/or verified that part of this certificate which requires me to list all previous injuries or additional conditions that are known to me which may affect my performance in so representing my school, and I verify that it is correct and complete.

Signature of Athlete:

Date:

PARENT PERMISSION (Authorization for Treatment, Release of Medical Information, and Insurance Information)

Informed Consent: By its nature, participation in interscholastic athletics includes risk of serious bodily injury and transmission of infectious disease such as HIV and Hepatitis B. Although serious injuries are not common and the risk of HIV transmission is almost nonexistent in supervised school athletic programs, it is impossible to eliminate all risk. Participants must obey all safety rules, report all physical and hygiene problems to their coaches, follow a proper conditioning program, and inspect their own equipment daily. **PARENTS, GUARDIANS, OR STUDENTS WHO MAY NOT WISH TO ACCEPT RISK DESCRIBED IN THIS WARNING SHOULD NOT SIGN THIS FORM. STUDENTS MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN MSHSAA- SPONSORED SPORT WITHOUT THE STUDENT'S AND PARENT'S/GUARDIAN/S SIGNATURE.**

I understand that in the case of injury or illness requiring transportation to a health care facility, a reasonable attempt will be made to contact the parent or guardian in the case of the student-athlete being a minor, but that, if necessary, the student-athlete will be transported via ambulance to the nearest hospital.

We hereby give our consent for the above student to represent his/her school in interscholastic athletics. We also give our consent for him/her to accompany the team on trips and will not hold the school responsible in case of accident or injury whether it be en route to or from another school or during practice or an interscholastic contest; and we hereby agree to hold the school district of which this school is a part and the MSHSAA, their employees, agents, representatives, coaches, and volunteers harmless from any and all liability, actions, causes of action, debts, claims, or demands of every kind and nature whatsoever which may arise by or in connection with participation by my child/ward in any activities related to the interscholastic program of his/her school.

If we cannot be reached and in the event of an emergency, we also give our consent for the school to obtain through a physician or hospital of its choice, such medical care as is reasonably necessary for the welfare of the student, if he/she is injured in the course of school athletic activities. We authorize the release of necessary medical information to the physician, athletic trainer, and/or school personnel related to such treatment/care. We understand that the school may not provide transportation to all events, and permit / do not permit (CIRCLE ONE) my child to drive his/her vehicle in such a case.

To enable the MSHSAA to determine whether the herein named student is eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics in the MSHSAA member school, I consent to the release of any and all portions of school record files to MSHSAA, beginning with seventh grade, of the herein named student, specifically including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, birth and age records, name and residence address of parent(s) or guardian(s), residence address of the student, academic work completed, grades received, and attendance data.

We confirm that this application for the above student to represent his/her school in interscholastic athletics is made with the understanding that we have studied and understand the eligibility standards that our son/daughter must meet to represent his/her school and that he/she has not violated any of them. We also understand that if our son/daughter does not meet the citizenship standards set by the school or if he/she is ejected from an interscholastic contest because of an unsportsmanlike act, it could result in him/her not being allowed to participate in the next contest or suspension from the team either temporarily or permanently.

I consent to the MSHSAA's use of the herein named student's name, likeness, and athletic-related information in reports of contests, promotional literature of the Association and other materials and releases related to interscholastic athletics.

We further state that we have completed that part of this certificate which requires us to list all previous injuries or additional conditions that are known to us which may affect this athlete's performance or treatment and we certify that it is correct and complete.

The MSHSAA By-Laws provide that a student shall not be permitted to practice or compete for a school until it has verification that he/she has basic health/accident insurance coverage, which includes athletics. Our son/daughter is covered by basic health/accident insurance for the current school year as indicated below:

Name of Insurance Company:	Policy Number:
Signature of Parent(s) or Guardian:	Date:

PARENT AND STUDENT SIGNATURE (Concussion Materials)

I accept responsibility for reporting all injuries and illnesses to my school and medical staff (athletic trainer/team physician) including any signs and symptoms of a CONCUSSION. I have received and read the MSHSAA materials on Concussions, which includes information on the definition of a concussion, symptoms of a concussion, what to do if I have a concussion and how to prevent a concussion. I will inform my school and athletic trainer/team physician immediately if I experience any of these symptoms or if I witness a teammate with these symptoms.

Signature of Athlete:	Date:
Signature of Parent(s) or Guardian:	Date:

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Parent(s) or Guardian	Address	Phone Number
Name of Contact	Relationship to Athlete	Phone Number
Name of Contact	Relationship to Athlete	Phone Number



A Parent's / Guardian's Guide To Concussion

National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)
Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC)

What is a concussion?

- A concussion is a brain injury that results in a temporary disruption of normal brain function. A concussion occurs when the brain is violently moved within the skull, typically from a blow to the head or body. An athlete does not need to lose consciousness (be “knocked-out”) to suffer a concussion. In fact, less than ten percent of concussed athletes suffer loss of consciousness.

Concussion Facts

- A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury. The result is a functional problem rather than a clear structural injury, causing it to be invisible to standard medical imaging (CT, or “CAT” scans, and MRI scans).
- It is estimated that over 300,000 high school athletes across the United States suffer a concussion each year. (Data from the NFHS Injury Surveillance System, “High School RIO™”)
- Concussions occur most frequently in football, but ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, and basketball follow closely behind. All athletes are at risk, in all activities, regardless of gender.
- A concussion may cause multiple symptoms that can be categorized as physical, behavioral, and cognitive. Physical symptoms include headaches, dizziness, and sleep changes, among others. Some behavioral changes include irritability, anxiety, and depression. Cognitive symptoms, or thinking changes, include trouble with focus, memory, and word finding. Many symptoms appear immediately after the injury, while others may develop over the next several days. Concussions can result in symptoms that interfere with normal daily life in addition to difficulty with school, work, and social life.
- Concussion symptoms may last from a few days to several months. It is important to remember that each student athlete responds and recovers differently.
- Athletes should not return to sports or activities that will put them at risk for another head injury until the concussion has completely resolved. To do so puts them at risk for prolonged symptoms and a more severe injury. Participation in physical education classes or exercise should be discussed with a qualified appropriate health-care professional.

What should I do if I think my child has had a concussion?

If an athlete is suspected of having a concussion, the athlete must be immediately removed from that activity and be evaluated by a qualified appropriate health-care professional. Continuing to exercise, practice, or play when experiencing concussion

symptoms can lead to worsening of symptoms, increased risk for further injury and rarely death. Parents and coaches are not expected to make the diagnosis of a concussion. A medical professional trained in the diagnosis and management of concussions will do so. However, you must be aware of the signs and symptoms of a concussion. If you are suspicious that your child has suffered a concussion, your child must stop activity right away and be evaluated.

When in doubt, sit them out!

All student-athletes who sustain a concussion need to be evaluated by a health care professional who is experienced in concussion management. If your child's school has an athletic trainer (AT), please inform the AT of your concerns. You should call your child's physician and explain what has happened and follow your physician's instructions. If your child is vomiting, has a severe headache, is having difficulty staying awake or difficulty answering simple questions, you should take your child for immediate emergency medical attention.

What are the signs and symptoms of a concussion?

SIGNS OBSERVED BY PARENTS, ATHLETIC TRAINERS, FRIENDS, TEACHERS OR COACHES	SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE
Appears dazed or stunned	Headache
Is confused about what to do	Nausea
Forgets plays	Balance problems or dizziness
Is unsure of game, score, or opponent	Double or fuzzy vision
Moves clumsily	Sensitivity to light or noise
Answers questions slowly	Feeling sluggish
Loses consciousness	Feeling foggy or groggy
Shows behavior or personality changes	Concentration or memory problems
Can't recall events prior to hit	
Can't recall events after hit	Confusion

When can an athlete return to play following a concussion?

After suffering a concussion, **no athlete should EVER return to play or practice on that same day.** Studies have shown that the young brain does not recover quickly enough for an athlete to safely return to activity in such a short time.

Concerns over athletes returning to play too quickly have led lawmakers in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to pass laws stating that **no player shall return to play the day of a concussion, and the athlete must be cleared by an appropriate health-**

care professional before being allowed to return to play in games or practices.

The laws typically also mandate that players, parents and coaches receive education on the dangers and recognizing the signs and symptoms of concussion. Click here to see what your state law requires: <http://usafootball.com/blog/health-and-safety/see-where-your-state-stands-concussion-law>.

Once an athlete no longer has symptoms of a concussion AND is cleared for return to play, the athlete should proceed with activity in a step-wise fashion in a carefully controlled and monitored environment to allow the brain to re-adjust to exertion. On average, the athlete will complete a new step every 24 hours. **Please be aware that some states mandate for a longer duration before return to play.** An example of a typical return-to-play schedule is shown below:

Step 1: Light exercise, including walking or riding an exercise bike. No weightlifting.

Step 2: Running in the gym or on the field. No helmet or other equipment.

Step 3: Non-contact training drills in full equipment. Weight training can begin.

Step 4: Full contact practice or training.

Step 5: Game play.

- If symptoms occur at any step, the athlete should immediately stop activity and consult with a qualified appropriate health-care professional before moving on.**

How can a concussion affect schoolwork?

Following a concussion, many student-athletes have difficulty in school. These problems may last from days to months and often involve difficulties with short-term memory, concentration and organization.

In many cases after the injury, it is best to decrease the athlete's class load early in the recovery phase. This may include staying home from school for a few days, followed by academic adjustments (such as a reduced class schedule), until the athlete has fully recovered. Decreasing the stress on the brain and not allowing the athlete to push through symptoms will hasten the recovery time and ensure total resolution of symptoms.

What can I do?

- Both you and your child should learn to recognize the "Signs and Symptoms" of concussion as listed above.
- Encourage your child to tell the medical and/or coaching staff if any of these signs and symptoms appear after a blow to the head or body.
- Emphasize to administrators, coaches, physicians, athletic trainers, teachers and other parents your concerns and expectations about concussion and safe play.
- Encourage your child to tell the medical and coaching staff if there is suspicion that a teammate has suffered a concussion.
- Ask teachers to monitor any decrease in grades or changes in behavior in students that could indicate a concussion.
- Report concussions that occurred during the school year to appropriate school staff. This will help in monitoring injured athletes as they move to the next season's sports.

Click here for more information about returning to school after a concussion:

http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/basics/return_to_school.html

Other Frequently Asked Questions:

Why is it so important that athletes not return to play until they have completely recovered from a concussion?

Student-athletes that return to play too soon may lengthen their recovery time. They also risk recurrent, cumulative or even catastrophic consequences if they suffer another concussion. Such risk and difficulties are prevented if each athlete is allowed time to recover from a concussion and the return-to-play decisions are carefully and individually made. No athlete should return to sport or other at-risk activity when signs or symptoms of concussion are present and recovery is ongoing.

Is a “CAT scan” or MRI needed to diagnose a concussion?

No! Concussion diagnosis is based upon the athlete’s history of the injury and an appropriate health-care professional’s physical examination and testing. CT and MRI scans are rarely needed following a concussion. However, they are helpful in identifying life-threatening head and brain injuries such as skull fractures, bleeding or swelling.

What is the best treatment to help my child recover quickly from a concussion?

Treatment for concussion varies from one person to the next. Immediately after a concussion, the best treatment is physical and cognitive rest. Exposure to loud noises, bright lights, computers, video games, television and phones (including text messaging) may worsen the symptoms of a concussion. You should allow your child to rest as much as possible in the days following a concussion. As the symptoms lessen, the appropriate health-care professional may allow increased use of computers, phone, video games, etc., but the access must be lessened or eliminated if symptoms worsen. There are no medications to treat concussions, but an appropriate health-care professional may prescribe medications and therapies to treat symptoms of a concussion, such as headache, dizziness, sleep changes, etc. Some athletes may require rehabilitative therapies, such as physical, occupational, vestibular, ocular or speech/cognitive. Others may require treatment for mood and behavior changes.

How long do the symptoms of a concussion usually last?

For most concussions, symptoms will usually go away within 2–3 weeks of the initial injury. You should anticipate that your child will likely be held out of full participation in sports for several weeks following a concussion. In some cases, symptoms may last for many more weeks or sometimes several months. Symptoms such as headache, memory problems, poor concentration, difficulty sleeping and mood changes can interfere with school, work, and social interactions. The potential for such long-term symptoms indicates the need for careful management of all concussions.

How many concussions can an athlete have before consideration to stop playing sports?

There is no “magic number” of concussions that determine when an athlete should give up playing contact or collision sports. The circumstances that surround each individual injury, such as how the injury occurred as well as the number and duration of symptoms following the concussion, are very important. These circumstances must be individually considered when assessing an athlete’s risk for potential long-term consequences and potentially more serious brain injuries. The decision to “retire” from sports is a decision best reached after a complete evaluation by your child’s primary care provider and consultation with an appropriate health-care professional who specializes in treating concussions.

I've read recently that concussions may cause long-term brain damage in athletes, especially professional football players. Is this a risk for high school athletes who have had a concussion?

The issue of "chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE)" has received a great deal of media attention. Currently, CTE can only be diagnosed by autopsy. It has been described in the brains of professional and amateur athletes, including boxers, football players, hockey players, and soccer players, among others. Very little is known about all the causes of these dramatic abnormalities in the brains of these unfortunate players. At this time we do not know the long-term effects of concussions or the cumulative effects of multiple sub-concussive blows that happen during high school athletics. In light of this, it is important to carefully manage every concussion and all concussion-like signs and symptoms on an individual basis.

Some of this information has been adapted from the CDC's "Heads Up: Concussion in High School Sports" materials by the NFHS's Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. Please go to www.cdc.gov/ncipc/tbi/Coaches_Tool_Kit.htm for more information.

Revised and Approved April 2016

April 2013

April 2010

DISCLAIMER – NFHS Position Statements and Guidelines

The NFHS regularly distributes position statements and guidelines to promote public awareness of certain health and safety-related issues. Such information is neither exhaustive nor necessarily applicable to all circumstances or individuals, and is no substitute for consultation with appropriate health-care professionals. Statutes, codes or environmental conditions may be relevant. NFHS position statements or guidelines should be considered in conjunction with other pertinent materials when taking action or planning care. The NFHS reserves the right to rescind or modify any such document at any time.

