

Managing Student Risk in Interschool Sports - Elementary and Secondary Schools	
Adopted: September 1, 1989	Last Reviewed/Revised: April 16, 2024
Next Scheduled Review: 2026-2027	
Associated Policies & Procedures: II-31 Risk Management – First Aid VI-74 Risk Management – First Aid II-39 Progressive Discipline & Safety in Schools/Code of Conduct – Suspensions & Expulsions VI-44 Progressive Discipline and Safety in Schools II-42 Medical Conditions V-05 School Accidents – Prevention & Safety VI-21 OSBIE Online Incident Reporting (Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange) VI-39 Inclement Weather Safety VI-47 Inclement Weather - Transportation Cancellations and Emergency School Closures VI-71 Concussion Safety VI-102 Responding to Hate or Bias Motivated Incidents Involving or Impacting Students	

Purpose

To provide thorough attention to the health and safety of student athletes participating in Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) sponsored and/or sanctioned interschool athletic activities.

Application and Scope

This policy applies to all HCDSB and school sponsored and/or sanctioned interschool athletic activities taking place on HCDSB sites or on sites located outside the jurisdiction of the HCDSB.

References

[Education Act](#)

[Halton Catholic Athletic Association \(HCAA\)](#)

[Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference \(GHAC\)](#)

[Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations \(OFSAA\)](#)

[Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education \(OPASSE\)](#)

Principles

- The Halton Catholic District School Board believes that the safety and well-being of student athletes are of primary concern and recognizes that certain policies and procedures must be established and implemented by all instructors/coaches and participants in order to promote safe activities and a safe playing environment for the athletes.
- In accordance with the Education Act, the School Administrator, or designate and teacher has the right and responsibility of a judicious parent/guardian and will act in accordance with the expectations of a parent/guardian.

Requirements

The following minimum standards for dealing with athletic risk management will be implemented:

- Adherence to the Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education (OPASSE) Guidelines, specifically:
 - Equipment
 - Clothing/Footwear
 - Facilities
 - Special Rules/Instructions
 - Supervision
 - Coaching Certification
- Completion of appropriate (elementary or secondary) CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE AND MEDICAL INFORMATION FORMS (which outlines potential injury risk) prior to the first try-out for each sport in which the student is a participant.
- Coaches shall have access to the completed Interschool Consent To Participate and Medical Information Forms at all practices and competitions.
- Completion of an appropriate elementary or secondary RETURN TO PHYSICAL ACTIVITY NON-CONCUSSION MEDICAL ILLNESS/INJURY FORM where a student is returning to play after missing a practice or game due to an injury or illness requiring medical attention.
- Adherence to HCDSB Policy II-42 Medical Conditions and Concussion Safety procedures:
 - An appropriate means of communication on site, and a list of emergency contacts;
 - An appropriate means of transportation on site;
 - The availability of an appropriate first aid kit;

- The identification of an INCHARGE PERSON, at all interschool athletic competitions, who will manage in the event of injury;
- The in-charge person at all identified “**high risk** activities” wherever they occur will be certified with a valid St. John Ambulance Standard First Aid certificate, or equivalent. The First Aid provider must be in attendance for the entire athletic event.
- Teachers/Coaches are to be aware of the medical/health conditions and physical limitations of their student athletes. This includes, but not limited to, knowledge of conditions such as heart disorders, asthma, diabetes, anaphylaxis, seizure disorder, and previous concussions.
- Teacher/Coaches must follow the appropriate HCDSB protocol based on the student athlete’s medical/health condition, as well as student injury/suspected injury for the duration of the sporting event.
- Prior to the instructor/coach teaching the skills of the activity, the instructor/coach will:
 - outline the possible risks of the activity (warnings of possible danger);
 - demonstrate how to minimize the risks;
 - set procedures and rules for safe practice of skills;
 - adhere to the safety procedures, rules of safe play, and parameters located within the Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education Guidelines; and
 - provide the appropriate supervision required by the activity.
- Prior to participating in the activity students must receive Concussion Safety procedures information or training on the following:
 - the definition and the seriousness of a concussion of how to identify the signs and symptoms of a suspected concussion;
 - the importance of reporting a suspected concussion to teacher/parents/guardians;
 - prevention techniques for the activity;
 - students must not participate in the activity until this instruction has been received.
- In activities requiring protective equipment - either supplied by the HCDSB, or by the individual participant - such equipment must meet the minimum safety standards as established by the Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education (OPASSE), and/or the Halton Catholic Athletic Association (HCAA)/Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (GHAC)/Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations’ (OFSAA) playing regulations for the sport and confirmed by the coaching staff.
- Environmental factors affecting the health and safety of participants and spectators (e.g. thunder and lightning, high winds, extreme temperatures and inclement weather) must be taken into consideration in terms of site appropriateness and/or cancellation/postponement as outlined in Procedure VI-39 Inclement Weather Safety.

- Each playing season, at least one coach from each school must attend (HCAA and Elementary) a preseason Coaches meeting to obtain important information about the upcoming season and safety updates.
- HCDSB provides opportunities for instructors/coaches to participate actively in Coaching Clinics and First Aid Certification Training in adherence to the *Halton Catholic District School Board Out of Classroom Programs Safety Guidelines*.
- Provisions must be made for health care insurance, Extended Blue Cross or equivalent, for each participant involved in athletic activities, which occur out of province/country.
- Any action taken to implement the requirements of this policy, including the application of consequences to students or direction to visitors to the school grounds or property, must be consistent with the Requirements of Policy II-39 Progressive Discipline & Safety in Schools Code of Conduct - Suspensions & Expulsions.
- Secondary school athletics follow procedures outlined by the Halton Catholic Athletic Association (HCAA) Constitution, Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (GHAC) Constitution, and Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) Constitution.
- Elementary school athletics follow procedures outlined in the Elementary Interschool Athletics Handbook: School Administrators and Coaches Information & Checklist.

APPROVED: Regular Meeting of the Board

AUTHORIZED BY: _____
Chair of the Board