



## **Policy #58 121A.38 Concussion Protocols and Procedures**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to work with the school and sports communities to make information available about the nature and risks of concussions, to rely on the training of coaches and officials regarding concussions through the appropriate governing body, and to authorize the removal of athletes when a concussion is exhibited or suspected.

**POLICY STATEMENT:** St. Cloud Math and Science Academy Charter School coaches and referees/officials, whether paid or volunteer, shall complete initial and ongoing in-service and education regarding concussions as set forth below. St. Cloud Math and Science Academy Charter School will make concussion information available to youth athletes and their parents/ guardians.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

1. “Concussion” means a complex pathophysiological process affecting the brain, induced by traumatic biokinetic forces caused by a direct blow to either the head, face, or neck, or elsewhere on the body with an impulsive force transmitted to the head, that may involve the rapid onset of short-lived impairment of neurological function and clinical symptoms, loss of consciousness, or prolonged post-concussive symptoms.
2. “Youth athlete” means a young person through age 18 who actively participates in athletic or kinesthetic activity, including a sport.
3. “Youth athletic activity” means any sport or other athletic activity related to competition, practice, or educational exercises that are intended for youth athletes and at which a compensated or volunteer coach, assistant coach, or official is presiding.

### **POLICY:**

1. St. Cloud Math and Science Academy Charter School shall provide information to all youth athletes and their parents or guardians regarding the nature, risks, and effects of concussions. The information provided shall be consistent with current medical and physiological knowledge from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – and/or as informed by the Minnesota Department of Education.
2. The appropriate governing body shall provide school coaches and officials involved in youth athletic activities training related to concussions.

3. A coach, trainer, or school official shall remove a youth athlete from participating in any youth athletic activity when a concussion is exhibited or suspected. Once removed, the youth athlete may not return to participation until he or she no longer exhibits symptoms of a concussion and is evaluated by a trained health care provider who gives written permission to return to participation.

4. A coach, trainer, or school official will complete a *Student Injury reporting Form* for the school's permanent file when a concussion is exhibited or suspected.

#### PROCEDURES:

1. Information regarding concussions shall be made available at the start of each school year to youth athletes and their parents or guardians through website links or otherwise, and shall include the following:
  - a. The nature and risks of concussions associated with the athletic activity;
  - b. The signs, symptoms, and behaviors consistent with a concussion;
  - c. The need to alert appropriate medical professionals for urgent diagnosis and treatment when a youth athlete is suspected or observed to have received a concussion;
  - d. The need for a youth athlete who sustains a concussion to follow proper medical direction and protocols for treatment and return to play.

2. When a parent or guardian of a youth athlete signs a consent form to allow participation in the youth athletic activity, the form must include information about the nature and risks of concussions.

3. Each volunteer and/or compensated school coach, assistant coach, and school official involved in youth athletic activities must receive initial education related to concussions in youth sports protocols and procedures from a credible source such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention -- and thereafter have that education renewed/ refreshed at least once every three school years. Proof of this will be maintained in the school's permanent records.

4. The Executive Director is responsible for promulgating, implementing, and enforcing this policy.

Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. §121A.38 (Concussion Procedures) Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. §121A.38 (Concussion Procedures)

St. Cloud Math and Science Academy Charter School #4223

**Board of Directors**

**POLICY #97 Drafted/ Proposed:** March 15, 2023

**POLICY #97 Adopted/ Approved:**