

FOOTBALL
Information For Medical Personnel

Schools are encouraged to share the following information with any physicians, trainers, therapists, etc., that cover their football games. This is information they must be aware of as they care for athletes needing their attention.

The best procedure would be to make copies of this information and mail it to them in advance of contest, or hand it to them upon their arrival for the contest.

Football Rules Medical Personnel Need To Be Aware Of

1. **ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT INCLUDES:**

A. Hard and Unyielding Items

Hard and unyielding items (guards, casts, braces, etc.) on the hand, wrist, forearm, elbow, or upper arm unless padded with a closed-cell, slow-recovery foam padding no less than 1/2 inch thick.

B. Knee Braces

Knee and ankle braces which are altered from the manufacturer's original design/production.

C. Eye Shields

Eye shields which are not 100% clear/transparent and prevent visual examination of a player's eyes.

D. Equipment

Any equipment judged by the official to be potentially dangerous is illegal.

2. **MEDICAL ALERT BRACELETS OR NECKLACES**

These items are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body and may be visible.

3. **ARTIFICIAL LIMBS**

Wisconsin has authorized the use of artificial limbs which are no more dangerous to players than the corresponding human limb and do not place an opponent at a disadvantage.

4. **BLEEDING**

If an official discovers a player who is bleeding, or has an open wound, or has an excessive amount of blood on his uniform, such player shall be considered an injured player and must leave the game until the bleeding is controlled and cleaned up.

5. **CONCUSSION AND/OR UNCONSCIOUS PARTICIPANT**

No athlete should return to play or practice on the same day of being diagnosed with a concussion or rendered unconscious. Any athlete suspected of having a concussion should be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional that day. Any athlete with a concussion should be medically cleared by an appropriate health-care professional prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition. After medical clearance, return to play should follow a step-wise protocol with provisions for delayed return to play based upon the return of any signs or symptoms.

Note: WIAA Sport Medical Advisory Committee identifies a physician and licensed athletic trainer (LAT) as an appropriate health-care professional for determining return to play other than the same day.

6. **OXYGEN**

Oxygen administered by mechanical means for recuperative purposes is not permitted.

7. **FLUIDS PROVIDED INTRAVENOUSLY**

This invasive procedure is used only in emergency situations. An athlete may not return to competition the same day.

NOTE: See WIAA Medical Policies and Procedures for additional medical information.