

Attention: Sports or Medical Reporter

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Tough New School Concussion Protocols a Brain Changer

Grand Rapids, Mich. - Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital's Sports Concussion specialists predict that the just released Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) concussion protocols will provide a new level of brain trauma prevention for 300,000 high school athletes.

Dr. Bloom, who heads up Mary Free Bed's nationally recognized concussion program, said, "These protocols will put concussion diagnosis in the hands of the health care professional on the field, and the athletes' return to player status in the hands of DO's and MD's who specialize in head trauma diagnosis and treatment."

The mandate covers all sports at the MHSAA member's 1,600 schools and they have been issued to the state's 12,000 referees. The new concussion diagnosis and player return standards only cover games, not practices.

Bloom went on to say, "The fact that a player, once she or he is sidelined with a possible concussion, must get approval from a DO or MD, will create many more visits for this office and others across the state."

MHSAA summary of concussion protocols: (The full report at www.mhsaa.com)

- Officials will have no role in determining if an athlete has sustained a concussion, but will only point out to the head coach that the player has been apparently injured and should be examined by a health care professional.
- If the school's designated health care professional at the event confirms a concussion did not occur, the athlete may reenter the contest.
- In the event the game continues and the athlete is withheld for an apparent concussion, the athlete may not return to play that day and may only return at a future date after a written clearance is issued by a DO or MD.
- The game official will file a report with the MHSAA and the removed player's school.
- For MHSAA post-season tournaments where an MHSAA-assigned physician is present, that individual will make the determination regarding same day return to play.

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More about Mary Free Bed:

Founded more than 100 years ago, Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital is an 80-bed, not-for-profit, acute rehabilitation center. Its mission is to restore hope and freedom through rehabilitation to people with disabilities. Mary Free Bed offers comprehensive inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation for children and adults using an interdisciplinary approach. Also available are numerous specialty programs designed to increase the quality of life and independence of people with disabilities. For more information about Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, please visit www.maryfreebed.com, or call (800) 528-8989.

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