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California Interscholastic Federation

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AGENDA ITEM: V.B.10

TO: FEDERATED COUNCIL
FROM: CIF Executive Committee
THROUGH: Commissioner's Committee
DATE: February 5, 2010
RE: Concussion Protocol

Rationale:

Several other western states have passed bylaws regarding "return to play" for any student-athlete who is suspected of receiving a concussion or head injury. Nationwide data continues to show that many catastrophic head injuries are a direct result of injured athletes returning to play too soon, not having fully recovered from the first head injury. Presently, California does NOT have any bylaw governing this issue and it has been left up to schools/districts to have a local policy. Many schools/districts are looking to the CIF for direction and governance on this important topic. The CIF Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) has discussed this issue numerous times and strongly supports a CIF policy that would require a written medical clearance before "Return to Play" is permitted.

Proposed New Bylaw 313

A student-athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from competition at that time for the remainder of the day. A student-athlete who has been removed from play may not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussion and receives written clearance to return to play from that health care provider.

1st Reading: February 5, 2010

Vote: May 7, 2010