

Township of West Milford

Passaic County, New Jersey

~ Resolution 2015 – 336 ~

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST MILFORD, COUNTY OF PASSAIC, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CONCUSSION POLICY FOR YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS CONDUCTED WITHIN MUNICIPALLY-OWNED FACILITIES

WHEREAS, a concussion is a traumatic brain injury caused by a direct or indirect blow to the head or body; and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has reported that over 750,000 Americans are injured during recreation sports, which leads to an estimated 300,000 concussions sustained each year in the United States and therefore, in order to ensure the safety of young athletes, it is imperative that athletes, coaches, and parents/guardians are educated with regard to the nature and treatment of sports-related concussions and brain injuries; and

WHEREAS, recognizing this alarming statistic, the NJ State Legislature adopted NJSA 18A:41.4 et seq. that requires a student who participates in an interscholastic sports or cheerleading program and who sustains or is suspected of having sustained a head injury while engaged in competition or practice shall be immediately removed from participation in the event; and

WHEREAS, under this law, the Board of Education (BOE) must also require all outside organizations, including municipal recreation programs that utilize school-owned facilities, comply with the requirements promulgated through this legislation; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council recognize that allowing a young athlete to return to play before recovering from a concussion increases the chance of a more serious brain injury that can result in disability and/or death and therefore are desirous of the Township implementing a similar policy that focuses on education and minimizing the injury sustained by a youth participant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of West Milford, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, that all recreational programs sponsored by the Township or outside organizations utilizing Township-owned fields or facilities shall be required to satisfy the requirements set forth by a Concussion Policy to be developed by the Township, which shall draw from the resources and recommendations offered by the:

US Center for Disease Control (CDC)	Rutgers Coaches Certification Program
NJ Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund (NJ MEL)	
Boards of Education protocol (with respect to NJSA 18A: 40.4 et.seq)	
West Milford CS&R Department	Township Risk Management Consultant

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the finalized policy shall be presented before the Governing Body for final authorization and adoption and will thereby be utilized by any and all organizations utilizing municipally-owned facilities: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Township Administrator, Township Recreation Director, Township Risk Manager and the Brain Injury Alliance of NJ, Concussions in Youth Sports Committee, 825 Georges Road, North Brunswick, NJ 08902.

Adopted: October 21, 2015

Adopted this 21st day of October 2015
and certified as a true copy of an original.

Antoinette Battaglia, Township Clerk