

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Joel Barlow High School will be implementing an innovative program for our student-athletes. This program will assist our team physicians/athletic trainer and the personal physicians of student athletes in evaluating and treating head injuries (e.g., concussion). In order to better manage concussions sustained by our student-athletes, we have acquired a software tool called ImPACT (Immediate Post Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing). ImPACT is a computerized exam utilized in many professional, collegiate and high school sports programs across the country to assist medical professionals and athletic trainers to manage concussions. If an athlete is believed to have suffered a head injury during competition, ImPACT can be used to help determine the severity of head injury and related recovery.

The computerized exam is given to athletes before beginning contact sports practices or competition. This non-invasive test is set up in “video-game” type format and takes about 20 minutes to complete. It is simple, and actually many athletes enjoy the challenge of taking the test. Essentially, the ImPACT test is a preseason physical of the brain. It, however, is not an IQ test.

If a concussion is suspected, participating athletes will be asked to re-take the test. Both the preseason baseline test and the post-injury test data is given to the athletic trainer, local doctor or neuropsychologist or neuropsychologist at the University of Pittsburg Medical Center (UPMC) to help evaluate the injury. (The UPMC Sports Concussion Program is the founding group of the ImPACT software). The information gathered can also be shared with your family doctor. The test data will enable these healthcare professionals to determine when return-to-play is appropriate for the injured athlete. If any injury of this nature occurs to your child, you will be promptly contacted with all the details.

The information gathered from the ImPACT program may also be utilized in studies currently being conducted by both this school and UPMC. In order to ensure and guarantee your child’s anonymity, we have set-up an anonymous data submission system. This data may be anonymously be submitted to UPMC for their research purposes.

We wish to stress that the ImPACT testing procedure is non-invasive and poses no risk to your child. We are excited to implement this program given that it provides us the best available information for managing concussions. The Joel Barlow High School administration, coaching and athletic training staffs are striving to keep your child’s safety foremost in the student athletic experience. Should you elect to have your child participate in this program, please return the attached page with the appropriate signatures. If you have any further questions regarding this program please feel free to contact the Joel Barlow High School athletic department at 203-938-2508 Ext. 1507

Sincerely,

Mike Santangeli  
Athletic Administrator  
Joel Barlow High School

Keith Deyo, ATC, LAT, CSCS  
Head Athletic Trainer  
Joel Barlow High School