-          The make and model of football helmets owned and used by the Kearney School District;

-          We own two types of helmets:

-          1. Riddell

-          2. Schutt

-          The Kearney School District’s policy and/or procedure regarding how often it replaces the football helmets it owns and uses;

-          High School helmets are reconditioned annually.  If the helmet does not pass inspections they are no longer used.  The life of a helmet can be no longer than 10 years.

-          The Kearney School District’s policy and/or procedure regarding how often it reconditions the football helmets it owns and uses;

-          Annually

-          The name of the company hired to recondition the helmets owned and used by the Kearney School District;

-          Siege Sports/Schutt

-          The name of the person or company responsible for fitting the helmets used by football players in the Kearney School District;

-          Kearney Football Coaching Staff

-          The Kearney School District’s policy on prevention and treatment of concussions;

-          Policy and treatment of Concussion at KHS

-          **Policy: When in doubt sit it out**

-          Kearney High School takes concussion very serious and on a case by case basis.  Concussions are an injury that requires not only preventative measures but also acute treatment and return to play protocols.   Our parents are educated on the dangers of playing sports.  We include concussion information both on the Pre-Participation Physicals and in our Student Activities Handbook.  Our athletes are instructed on the signs and symptoms of concussion through a talk from the Athletic Trainer, posters in the training room and in the handbook.  They are instructed to report not only if they have symptoms but if a teammate is suffering from them.  Our coaches are also educated on the dangers, the signs and symptoms, and to sit the athlete out until further evaluation is done on any child with symptoms.  Kearney also has a Certified Athletic Trainer on staff, who provides medical coverage for all sports from 7th-12th grade.  If a concussion is suspected the ATC is called and he evaluates the student athlete.

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-          Procedures:

-          In the event that a child sustains a concussion the parent/guardian is contacted.  An ImPact test is administered to help show where the student is at cognitively after the concussion.  Their ImPact test score is compared to their baseline and used to make sure the student returns to their baseline before return to play is allowed. The MSHAA guidelines are then followed and the athlete is required to see a physician before the 7 day return to play can start.  After evaluation from a physician, a return to play (RTP) plan is formed based on the physicians’ instruction.  At Kearney we also implement the “7 step return to play” guidelines set by MSHSAA.  If any symptoms return then we do not advance on the RTP program, and repeat that step after a 24 hour waiting period.  Their physician is also notified if the athlete is having issues with symptoms returning during the 7 step RTP protocol.

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-          The Kearney School District’s policy on head-to-head blocking or tackling in football

-          Head to head is not taught at KHS.  Coaching philosophy is to keep your head out of the game.  Shoulder tackling is taught.

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-          Addition Information:

-          We have used the Guardian Caps for one season, (2013 season and start of this season) so it is hard to say if they have reduced the amount of concussions or the severity of them (one year could just be an anomaly).  We did have fewer concussions last year, but I cannot say with 100% confidence that it was due to wearing the Caps as one year is just not enough time to show conclusive results.  The Guardian Cap does not claim to prevent concussions, as there is nothing on the market that can claim that right now.  But after doing some research and consulting with a few teams that had worn them in the past; we felt as a district this was an option we could use to try and give our student-athletes a little more protection.

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-          Thanks

-          Owen Iseminger, ATC LAT

-          Kearney Bulldog Trainer