

Parent and Athlete Concussion Information & Consent Form

A concussion is a brain injury and all brain injuries are serious. They are caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. They can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Even though most concussions are mild, all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly. In other words, even a “ding” or a bump on the head can be serious. You can’t see a concussion and most sports concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Signs and symptoms of concussion may show up right after the injury or can take hours or days to fully appear. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms or signs of concussion yourself, seek medical attention right away.

What can happen if my child keeps on playing with a concussion or returns too soon?

Athletes with the signs and symptoms of concussion should be removed from play immediately. Continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of a concussion leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury. There is an increased risk of significant damage from a concussion for a period of time after that concussion occurs, particularly if the athlete suffers another concussion before completely recovering from the first one. This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling (second impact syndrome) with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes often under report symptoms of injuries. And concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key for student athlete’s safety.

If you think your child has suffered a concussion

Any athlete even suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the game or practice immediately. No athlete may return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without medical clearance. Close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours. The new **“Zackery Lystedt Law”** in Washington now requires the consistent and uniform implementation of long and well-established return to play concussion guidelines that have been recommended for several years.

“a youth who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from competition at that time.”

And

“...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 received written clearance to return to play from that health care provider”.

You should also inform your child’s coach if you think that your child may have a concussion. Remember, it’s better to miss one game than to miss the whole season. And when in doubt, the athlete sits out.

Symptoms may include on or more of the following:	
Headaches	Amnesia
“Pressure in the head”	“Don’t feel right”
Nausea or vomiting	Fatigue or low energy
Neck pain	Sadness
Balance problems or dizziness	Nervousness or anxiety
Blurred, double, or fuzzy vision	Irritability
Sensitivity to light or noise	More emotional
Feeling sluggish or slowed down	Confusion
Feeling foggy or groggy	Concentration or memory problems (Forgetting game plays)
Drowsiness	
Change in sleep patterns	Repeating the same question/comment

Signs Observed by teammates, parents and coaches include:
Appears dazed
Vacant facial expressions
Forgets plays
Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
Moves clumsily or displays in coordination
Answers questions slowly
Slurred Speech
Shows behavior or personality changes
Can’t recall events prior to hit
Can’t recall events after hit
Seizures or convulsions
Any change in typical behavior or personality
Loses Consciousness
Adapted from the CDC and the 3rd International Conference on Concussion in Sports

For current and up-to-date information on concussions you can go to:
<http://www.cdc.gov/ConcussionInYouthSports>

I have read and understand this Parent and Athlete Concussion Information and Consent Form.

Student-Athlete Name Printed	
Student-Athlete Name Signature	
Date	

Parent or Legal Guardian Printed	
Parent or Legal Guardian Signature	
Date	