

## Parent/Athlete Concussion Information Sheet

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury that changes the way the brain normally works. A concussion is caused by bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body that causes the head and brain to move rapidly back and forth. Even a “ding,” “getting your bell rung,” or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious.

### What are the signs and symptoms of concussion?

Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after the injury or may not appear or be noticed until days or weeks after the injury.

If an athlete reports **one or more** symptoms of concussion listed below after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body, s/he should be kept out of play the day of the injury and until a health care professional, experienced in evaluating for concussion, says s/he is symptom-free and it’s OK to return to play.

<b>Signs Observed By Coaching Staff</b>
Appears dazed or stunned
Is confused about assignment or position
Forgets an instruction
Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
Moves clumsily
Answers questions slowly
Loses consciousness (even briefly)
Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes
Can’t recall events <i>prior</i> to hit or fall
Can’t recall events <i>after</i> hit or fall
<b>Symptoms Reported By Athletes</b>
Headache or “pressure” in head
Nausea or vomiting
Balance problems or dizziness
Double or blurry vision
Sensitivity to light
Sensitivity to noise
Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
Concentration or memory problems
Confusion
Just not “feeling right” or “feeling down”

### **Did You Know?**

- Most concussions occur without loss of consciousness.
- Athletes who have, at any point in their lives, had a concussion have an increased risk for another concussion.
- Young children and teens are more likely to get a concussion and take longer to recover than adults.

### **Remember**

Concussions affect people differently. While most athletes with a concussion recover quickly and fully, some will have symptoms that last for days, or even weeks. A more serious concussion can last for months or longer.

## Concussion Danger Signs

In rare cases, a dangerous blood clot may form on the brain in a person with a concussion and crowd the brain against the skull. An athlete should receive immediate medical attention if after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body s/he exhibits any of the following danger signs:

One pupil larger than the other	Is drowsy or cannot be awakened
A headache that not only does not diminish, but gets worse	Weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
Repeated vomiting or nausea	Slurred speech
Convulsions or seizures	Cannot recognize people or places
Becomes increasingly confused, restless, or agitated	Loses consciousness (even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously)
Has unusual behavior	

## Why Should An Athlete Report Their Symptoms?

If an athlete has a concussion, his/her brain needs time to heal. While an athlete's brain is still healing, s/he is much more likely to have another concussion. Repeat concussions can increase the time it takes to recover. In rare cases, repeat concussions in young athletes can result in brain swelling or permanent damage to their brain. *They can even be fatal.*

## What should You Do If You Think Your Athlete Has a Concussion?

If you suspect that an athlete has a concussion, remove the athlete from play and seek medical attention. Do not try to judge the severity of the injury yourself. Keep the athlete out of play the day of the injury and until a health care professional, experienced in evaluating for concussion says s/he is symptom-free and it's OK to return to play.

Rest is key to helping an athlete recover from a concussion. Exercising or activities that involve a lot of concentration, such as studying, working on the computer, or playing video games, may cause concussion symptoms to reappear or get worse. After a concussion, returning to sports and school is a gradual process that should be carefully managed and monitored by a health care professional.

It's better to miss one game than the whole season. For more information on concussions, visit: [www.cdc.gov/Concussion](http://www.cdc.gov/Concussion).

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COMPLETE AND RETURN TO SCHOOL PRIOR TO THE FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE

I have received and understand the Parent/Athlete Concussion Information Sheet.

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Student/Athlete Name – Printed

Student-Athlete Signature

Date

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Parent/Legal Guardian Name – Printed

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date