

CONCUSSION INFORMATION SHEET

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

Athletes with signs and symptoms of concussion should be removed from play immediately. Continuing to play with the signs 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 will often fail to report symptoms of injuries. Concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key to student-athlete's safety.

If you think your child has suffered a concussion.

Any athlete 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 Return-to-Play Policy of the IESA and IHSA requires athletes to provide their school or a certified athletic trainer working in conjunction with a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches prior to returning to play or practice following a concussion or after being removed from an interscholastic contest due to a possible head injury or concussion and not cleared to return to that same contest. In accordance with state law, all schools are required to follow this policy.

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 miss the whole season. And when in doubt, the athlete sits out.

For current up-to-date information on concussions you can go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ConcussionInYouthSports/>

Student/Parent Consent and Acknowledgements.

By signing this form, we acknowledge we have been provided information regarding concussions.

Student-athlete Name Printed

Student-athlete Signature

Date

Parent/Legal Guardian Printed

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Each year IESA member schools are required to keep a signed Acknowledgement and Consent form and a current Pre-participation Physical Examination on file for all student athletes.

Adapted from the DCD and the 3rd International Conference of Concussion in Sport

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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 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 concussion 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 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.

Symptoms may include one or more of the following:

Headaches	Amnesia
“Pressure in 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
Drowsiness	Repeating the same question/comment
Change in sleep patterns	

Signs observed by teammates, parents and coaches include:

Appears dazed
Vacant facial expressions
Confused about assignment
Forgets plays
Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
Moves clumsily or displays incoordination
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