



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.

**Symptoms may include one or more of the following:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Headaches</li> <li>● “Pressure in head”</li> <li>● Nausea or vomiting</li> <li>● Neck pain</li> <li>● Balance problems or dizziness</li> <li>● Blurred, double, or fuzzy vision</li> <li>● Sensitivity to light or noise</li> <li>● Feeling sluggish or slowed down</li> <li>● Feeling foggy or groggy</li> <li>● Drowsiness</li> <li>● Change in sleep patterns</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Amnesia</li> <li>● “Don’t feel right”</li> <li>● Fatigue or low energy</li> <li>● Sadness</li> <li>● Nervousness or anxiety</li> <li>● Irritability</li> <li>● More emotional</li> <li>● Confusion</li> <li>● Concentration or memory problems (forgetting game plays/formations)</li> <li>● Repeating the same question/comment</li> </ul> |
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**Signs observed by teammates, parents, and coaches/medical staff include:**

- Appears dazed
- Vacant facial expression
- 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

**What can happen if my child keeps on playing with a concussion or returns to 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 athlete will 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 CIF Bylaw 313 now requires implementation of long and well-established return to play concussion guidelines that have been recommended for several years:

“A student-athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from competition at that time and for the remainder of the day.”

**and**

“A student-athlete who has been removed 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 and/or athletic trainer 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.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Concussion Reporting  
Acknowledgement Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that I have to be an active participant in my own healthcare. As such, I have the direct responsibility for reporting all of my injuries and illnesses to the sports medicine staff of my school (e.g., team physician, athletic training staff). I recognize that my true physical condition is dependent upon an accurate medical history and a full disclosure of any symptoms, complaints, prior injuries and/or disabilities experienced. I hereby affirm that I have fully disclosed in writing any prior medical conditions and will also disclose any future conditions to the sports medicine staff at my institution.

I further understand that there is a possibility that participation in my sport may result in a head injury and/or concussion. I have been provided with education on head injuries and understand the importance of immediately reporting symptoms of a head injury/concussion to my sports medicine staff.

By signing below, I acknowledge that my institution has provided me with specific educational materials on what a concussion is and given me an opportunity to ask questions about areas and issues that are not clear to me on this issue.

Athlete Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_