



# 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

### 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.

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.

### SIGNS OF SEVERE YOUTH CONCUSSION

- 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 *prior* to hit or fall
- Can't recall events *after* hit or fall

### SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETES

- 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"

## 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
- Has unusual behavior
- Loses consciousness (*even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously*)

## 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.*

### 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.

## 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).

Student-Athlete: Name Printed \_\_\_\_\_

Student-Athlete Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Legal Guardian Printed \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Student-athlete & Parent/Legal Guardian Concussion Statement**

Must be signed and returned to school or community youth athletic activity prior to participation in practice or play.

Student-Athlete Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

After reading the information sheet, I am aware of the following information:

Student-Athlete Initials	
Parent/Legal Guardian Initials	
	A concussion is a brain injury which should be reported to my parents, my coach(es) or a medical professional if one is available.
	A concussion cannot be "seen." Some symptoms might be present right away. Other symptoms can show up hours or days after an injury.
	I will tell my parents, my coach and/or a medical professional about my injuries and illnesses.
N/A	I will not return to play in a game or practice if a hit to my head or body causes any concussion-related symptoms.
	I will/my child will need written permission from a health care provider* to return to play or practice after a concussion.
	Most concussions take days or weeks to get better. A more serious concussion can last for months or longer.
	After a bump, blow or jolt to the head or body an athlete should receive immediate medical attention if there are any danger signs such as loss of consciousness, repeated vomiting or a headache that gets worse.
	After a concussion, the brain needs time to heal. I understand that I am/my child is much more likely to have another concussion or more serious brain injury if return to play or practice occurs before the concussion symptoms go away.
	Sometimes repeat concussion can cause serious and long-lasting problems and even death.
	I have read the concussion symptoms on the Concussion Information Sheet.

\* Health care provider means a Tennessee licensed medical doctor, osteopathic physician or a clinical neuropsychologist with concussion training

Signature of Student-Athlete \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Legal guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_