

CONCUSSION IN YOUTH SPORTS

Information for Parents



CDC HEADS UP
SAFE BRAIN. STRONGER FUTURE.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

If your child has experienced a bump or blow to the head during a game or practice, look for any of the following signs and symptoms of a concussion:

SIGNS OBSERVED BY PARENTS OR GUARDIANS

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets sports plays
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Can't recall events prior to hit or fall
- Can't recall events after hit or fall

SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY THE ATHLETE

- Headache or "pressure" in the 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
- Does not "feel right"

**IT'S BETTER TO MISS ONE GAME
THAN THE WHOLE SEASON.**



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WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD HAD A CONCUSSION?

- 1. Seek medical attention right away.**
A health care professional will be able to decide how serious the concussion is and when it is safe for your child to return to sports.
- 2. Keep your child out of play.**
Concussions take time to heal. Don't let your child return to play until a health care professional says it's OK. Children who return to play too soon—while the brain is still healing—risk a greater chance of having a second concussion. Second or later concussions can be very serious. They can cause permanent brain damage, affecting your child for a lifetime.
- 3. Tell your child's coach about any recent concussion.** Coaches should know if your child had a recent concussion. Your child's coach may not know about a concussion your child received in another sport or activity unless you tell the coach.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

FILL IN THE NAME AND NUMBER OF YOUR LOCAL HOSPITAL(S) BELOW:

Hospital Name: _____

Hospital Phone: _____

Hospital Name: _____

Hospital Phone: _____

For immediate attention, CALL 911

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP