

Concussion Compliance Form

In 2009, the Washington Legislature passed House Bill 1824, in part, because of the experience of Zackery Lystedt, a young athlete grievously and permanently injured by a series of concussions. The law requires that private nonprofit youth sports organizations inform and educate coaches, young athletes, and their parent(s)/guardian(s) of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury including continuing to play after concussion or head injury. On a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet shall be signed and returned by the youth athlete and the athlete's parent and/or guardian prior to the youth athlete's initiating practice or competition.

Please read the information below and affix your signature to indicate that you have read this document. This form must be returned to your team or club and is good only for the 2016-17 sports year.

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury. Concussions are caused by a bump or blow to the head. Even a "ding," "getting your bell rung," or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious. You can't see a 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 your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms yourself, seek medical attention right away.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION?

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 Symptoms Reported by Athlete •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 behavior or personality changes •Can't recall events prior to hit or fall •Can't recall events after hit or fall •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 •Does not "feel right"

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD PREVENT A CONCUSSION?

Every sport is different, but there are steps your children can take to protect themselves from concussion. •Ensure that they follow their coach's rules for safety and the rules of the sport. •Encourage them to practice good sportsmanship at all times. •Make sure they wear the right protective equipment for their activity (such as helmets, padding, shin guards, and eye and mouth guards). Protective equipment should fit properly, be well maintained, and be worn consistently and correctly. Learn the signs and symptoms of a concussion.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD HAS 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 in ANY sport. Your child's coach may not know about a concussion your child received in another sport or activity unless you tell the coach.

It's better to miss one game than the whole season.

Athletes with the signs and symptoms of concussion should be removed from play immediately. Continuing 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 athletes will often underreport symptoms of injuries, and concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents/guardians, and the athletes is the key for the athletes' safety.

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. Furthermore, close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours. The new “Zackery Lystedt Law” in Washington now requires the consistent and uniform implementation of long and well-established return-to-play concussion guidelines that have been recommended for several years:

“A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from competition at that time.”

“[He or she]...may not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed healthcare provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussion and has received written clearance to play from that healthcare provider.” You should 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 it out. Additional current information regarding concussion management is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

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

By signing below, I indicate that I have reviewed the information regarding concussions outlined in this document:

_____	_____	_____
Athlete Name Printed	Athlete Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Parent/Guardian Name Printed	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date

Adapted from WIAA and CDC