

CONCUSSION PROTOCOL



2018

When in doubt, sit them out!

Dear Milton Youth Football Coach, Parents, and Players:

Throughout the past year, there has been a lot of talk and discussion throughout the different sports communities (youth, high school, college & professional) regarding the seriousness of concussions at all levels of play. Most notably, a report was published showing that NFL players who have suffered repeat concussions are two-times more likely to have long-term memory problems than the average person. Following this report, professional sports organizations, the NCAA and the WIAA have begun implementing guidelines for their players.

All participation in physical activity entails some risks. Awareness of these risks has increased as medical research has advanced. While the number of serious injuries experienced by MYF players participating in youth football has been low, the MYF Board is always interested in anything that can be done to improve player safety.

The bill sponsored by Rep. Jason Fields and Sen. Alberta Darling and supported by the National Football League, the Green Bay Packers and various health care providers, was signed into law by Gov. Scott Walker Monday, April 2, 2012.

The law requires all youth athletic organizations to educate coaches, student-athletes and parents on the risks of concussions and prohibits participation in a youth activity until a parent or guardian has returned a signed information sheet indicating they have reviewed the materials. In addition, the state Department of Public Instruction, with assistance from the WIAA, was directed to develop guidelines and other information to educate coaches, athletes and parents about the risk of concussions and head injuries in all youth sports, including club sports.

In response to the discussions and the new WI law, MYF board has created the attached Concussion Protocol for Coaches, Parents, Players and Medical Professionals.

If you have any questions regarding concussions, please feel free to contact Dennys E. Maldonado M.D. @ myfconcussion@gmail.com.

For further information on concussions, please visit, <http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/youth.html>

Sincerely

The Milton Youth Football Board

Concussion Protocol

MYF

MYF encourages its coaches to follow the following protocol to ensure the safety of all players.

Coaches Training & Education

Coaches must:

1. Go through a training course on signs and symptoms of a concussion. The training is located at the following link:
 - a. http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html
2. Have full knowledge of MYF protocols and the reporting requirements relating to concussions.
3. If you suspect a concussion and a medical professional is not in attendance, please call 911.

Concussions During a Team Event

1. When a player suffers a potential concussion, the coaches should be aware of the player's actions, and observe how they act when coming off the field and on the sideline.
2. Be aware that a concussion may occur anytime during play. A concussion is not always caused by big hits. Coaches should be aware of the players actions and responses after each play. Players who appear injured should be substituted and assessed on the sideline. Parents, you know your player BEST, if you child is exhibiting signs of an injury, notify the coaches immediately so players can be assessed on the sidelines.
3. If a player is showing any visual, neurological, or complaining of any signs or symptoms of a concussion, coaches should immediately get the EMT (if on site)

or get the player medical attention. If an EMT is not on site, the Parent(s) should be summoned (if on site). If parent(s) are not on site, 9-1-1 will be called.

4. A player who after communicating or showing signs of visual or neurological impairment will sit out a minimum of 15 minutes for rest and assessment. The player should be reassessed after 15 minutes. If NO visual or neurological impairments are noted the player may return to play at the discretion of the coach. If any visual or neurological impairments remain after the rest period, the player may not return to play until seen by a qualified physician.

5. 9-1-1 will be called for a player in the following instances (if no EMT is on site):
 - a) unconscious player or any player with total or momentary loss of consciousness or memory during or after play.

 - b) complaint of neck, back pain or loss of mobility or feeling in any arm or leg.

 - c) complaint of headache and / or dizziness getting worse.

6. If parent(s) are on site it is their discretion if they wish to have their child transported. Let the parents communicate with the ambulance crew regarding transport and care.

Reporting Procedures

1. Immediately following a player having a potential concussion, the coach shall complete their portion of the “Concussion Report” and give the parents the “Physicians Report –Concussion Determination” form. Players **must** go see a physician. *No player is allowed back on the field (game or practice) until they have either (a) been told by medical doctor that they did not suffer a concussion or (b) properly followed the “Return to Play” protocol.*

a. Coaches shall call their Team Representative within 24 hours of the possible concussion to report the injury and also deliver, mail or email the “Coach’s Report” to the Team Representative within 24 hours of the injury.

b. Once the reporting process has begun, players will not be allowed back on the field (practice or game) until proper approval from a Medical Doctor is provided to the Team Representative.

2. Players must go see proper medical personnel

b. If the Physician concluded the player did not suffer a concussion, return the proper paperwork to the Team Representative immediately and the player may return to practice/games.

c. If the player did suffer a concussion, the player will not be allowed to return to play (practice/games) until the Medical Physician has cleared the player to return. A signed, written medical release to return to play must be provided to the Team Representative.

Concussion Report

The following Concussion Report is to be completed and concussion protocol followed in order to allow proper diagnosis and return to play for players. Any forms not completed properly will result in players not being able to return to play in a timely manner.

If coaches are unsure whether a player suffered a concussion or not, this report must still be completed for documentation purposes.

_____	_____
Player Name (full name)	Date of Birth
_____	_____
Current Team	Head Coach
_____	_____
Parent(s) Name	Phone #
_____	_____
mail Address	E-

COACHES REPORT

If possible concussion was not suffered at a team event, have parents complete section below to best of their ability.

_____	_____	_____	<u>Game/Practice/Other</u>
Date of concussion	Location of Event	Approx. Time	Event Type

Describe situation:

Signs Observed by Coaching Staff (check all that apply):

- Appears Dazed or Stunned Is confused about assignment or position Forgets plays
- is unsure of game, score, opponent Moves clumsily Answers questions slowly
- loses consciousness Shows behavior or personality changes Can't recall events prior to concussion.
- Can't recall events after hit or fall Other: _____
- Other: _____ Other: _____

Signs Experienced by Athlete (check all that apply):

- 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. confusion concentration or memory problems
- doesn't "feel right" Other: _____

Describe situation:

Athlete is not allowed to return to play until they have properly completed the association protocols and have been approved by the Area Director for return to play. The player must see a physician.

Coach's Signature

Date

Physician's Report: *Return to Play Permission*

Player Name (Full Name)

Date of Birth

Physician's Name and Office

Phone Number

Please check the appropriate box as it related to the player

The above named player is 100% symptom free after suffering a concussion. This player is allowed to return to play and has completed the association's Return to Play protocol.

If the player completed the ImPact test, those results are attached and are within the margin of error of their baseline results to suggest that they are symptom free.

In my medical opinion, the above named player is ready to return to full contact play.

The above named player is not ready to return to play and will need to continue the Return to Play protocol starting back at day # _____. The player is still showing the following signs and symptoms of a concussion:

If the player completed the ImPact test, those results are/are not **(circle one)** within the margin of error to their baseline to suggest the player is/is not **(circle one)** symptom free.

The above named player will need much more medical attention before being ready to return to play. I will continue to evaluate the player until that time.

Physicians Signature

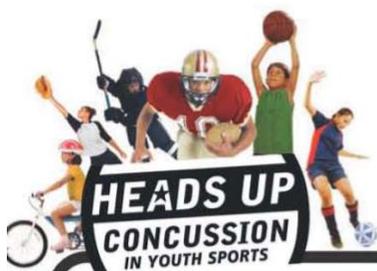
Date

Parent Signature

Date

Head Coach Signature

Date



A Fact Sheet for **ATHLETES**

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury that:

- Is caused by a bump or blow to the head
- Can change the way your brain normally works
- Can occur during practices or games in any sport
- Can happen even if you haven't been knocked out
- Can be serious even if you've just been "dinged"

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION?

- Headache or "pressure" in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Bothered by light
- Bothered by noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Difficulty paying attention
- Memory problems
- Confusion
- Does not "feel right"

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK I HAVE A CONCUSSION?

- **Tell your coaches and your parents.** Never ignore a bump or blow to the head even if you feel fine. Also, tell your coach if one of your teammates might have a concussion.

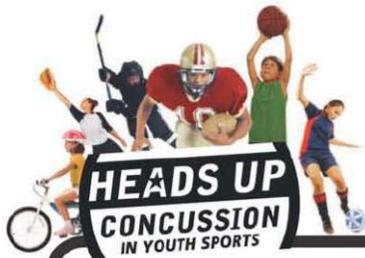
- **Get a medical check up.** A doctor or health care professional can tell you if you have a concussion and when you are OK to return to play.
- **Give yourself time to get better.** If you have had a concussion, your brain needs time to heal. While your brain is still healing, you are much more likely to have a second concussion. Second or later concussions can cause damage to your brain. It is important to rest until you get approval from a doctor or health care professional to return to play.

HOW CAN I PREVENT A CONCUSSION?

Every sport is different, but there are steps you can take to protect yourself.

- Follow your coach's rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- Practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- Use the proper sports equipment, including personal protective equipment (such as helmets, padding, shin guards, and eye and mouth guards). In order for equipment to protect you, it must be:
 - > The right equipment for the game, position, or activity
 - > Worn correctly and fit well
 - > Used every time you play

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



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?

Signs Observed by Parents or Guardians

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:

- 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

Symptoms Reported by Athlete

- 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.