

Hermon Recreation Department CONCUSSION INFORMATION SHEET

Parents and student-athletes: Please read, sign and keep a copy. You must turn in a signed form prior to the start of practice.

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 student-athlete 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:

- Headaches
- "Don't feel right"
- "Pressure in head"
- Fatigue or low energy
- Nausea or vomiting
- Sadness
- Neck pain
- Nervousness or anxiety
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Irritability
- Blurred, double, or fuzzy vision
- More emotional
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Confusion
- Feeling sluggish or slowed down
- Concentration or memory problems (forgetting game plays)
- Feeling foggy or groggy
- Drowsiness
- Repeating the same question/comment
- Change in sleep patterns
- Amnesia

Signs Observed by Teammates, Parents or Coaches Include:

- Appears dazed
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Vacant facial expression
- Can't recall events prior to hit
- Confused about assignment
- Can't recall events after hit
- Forgets plays
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Any change in typical behavior or personality
- Moves clumsily or displays incoordination
- Loses consciousness
- Answers questions slowly
- Slurred speech
- Seizures or convulsions

This document is adapted from the CDC and the 3rd International Conference on Concussion in Sport Consensus Statement (2009)

What can happen if my child keeps on playing with a concussion or returns too soon?

Athletes with the signs and symptoms of concussion should be removed from play immediately. Continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of 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 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 Hermon School Department requires the consistent and uniform implementation of well-established return to play concussion guidelines that have been recommended for several years and reflected in School Committee policy:

Any student suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury during a school- sponsored athletic activity including but not limited to competition, practice or scrimmage must be removed from the activity immediately.

No student will be permitted to return to the activity or to participate in any other school-sponsored athletic activity on the day of the suspected concussion.

Any student who is suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury shall be prohibited from further participation in school-sponsored athletic activities until he/she has been evaluated and received written medical clearance to do so from a licensed health care provider who is qualified and trained in concussion management.

You should also 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.

For current and up-to-date information on concussions you can go to:

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

Student-Athlete Name Printed

Parent or Legal Guardian Printed

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

Date