

Parent Concussion Awareness Form

DANGERS OF CONCUSSION

Concussions at all levels of sports have received a great deal of attention and state laws have been passed to address this issue. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to the effects of concussion. Once considered little more than a minor “ding” to the head, it is now understood that a concussion has the potential to result in death, or changes in brain function. A concussion occurs when the brain is violently rocked back and forth or twisted inside the skull as a result of a blow to the head or body. Continued participation in any sport following a concussion can lead to worsening concussion symptoms, as well as increased risk for further injury to the brain, and even death.

- Player and parental education in this area is crucial – that is the reason for this document. This form must be signed by a parent or guardian of each student who wishes to participate in an athletic program.
- Please sign and return only this page of the document. Please read, retain and refer to often the Parent Concussion Information Sheet, Oregon Conference Concussion Policy, and Concussion Signs and Symptoms Checklist for your own resources.
- If you would like further information, there is a free training course at <https://nfhslearn.com/courses?searchText=Concussion>

I have read this form, the Parent Concussion Information Sheet, Oregon Conference Concussion Policy, and Signs and Symptoms Checklist and the facts presented in it.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

CONCUSSION FACT SHEET FOR PARENTS



WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a type of traumatic 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.

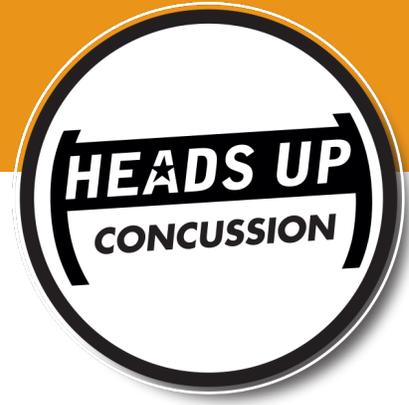
You can’t see a concussion. Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after the injury or may not appear or be noticed until days or weeks after the injury. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms yourself, seek medical attention right away.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF 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 of a concussion:

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
- Just not “feeling right” or is “feeling down”



SIGNS OBSERVED BY PARENTS/ GUARDIANS:

- 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

[INSERT YOUR LOGO]



DANGER SIGNS

Be alert for symptoms that worsen over time. Your child or teen should be seen in an emergency department right away if s/he has:

- One pupil (the black part in the middle of the eye) larger than the other
- Drowsiness or cannot be awakened
- A headache that gets worse and does not go away
- Weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- Slurred speech
- Convulsions or seizures
- Difficulty recognizing people or places
- Increasing confusion, restlessness, or agitation
- Unusual behavior
- Loss of consciousness (even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously)

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 regular activities, including sports.
2. **KEEP YOUR CHILD OUT OF PLAY.**
Concussions take time to heal. Don't let your child return to play the day of the injury and 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. Repeat 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 PREVIOUS CONCUSSION.**
Coaches should know if your child had a previous concussion. Your child's coach may not know about a concussion your child received in another sport or activity unless you tell the coach.

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD PREVENT A CONCUSSION OR OTHER SERIOUS BRAIN INJURY?

- 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. Protective equipment should fit properly and be well maintained.
- Wearing a helmet is a must to reduce the risk of a serious brain injury or skull fracture.
 - However, helmets are not designed to prevent concussions. There is no "concussion-proof" helmet. So, even with a helmet, it is important for kids and teens to avoid hits to the head.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL SAFELY AFTER A CONCUSSION?

Children and teens who return to school after a concussion may need to:

- Take rest breaks as needed
- Spend fewer hours at school
- Be given more time to take tests or complete assignments
- Receive help with schoolwork
- Reduce time spent reading, writing, or on the computer

Talk with your child's teachers, school nurse, coach, speech-language pathologist, or counselor about your child's concussion and symptoms. As your child's symptoms decrease, the extra help or support can be removed gradually.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION  www.facebook.com/CDCHeadsUp

TO LEARN MORE GO TO >> WWW.CDC.GOV/CONCUSSION

Content Source: CDC's Heads Up Program. Created through a grant to the CDC Foundation from the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE).

CONCUSSION SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS Checklist



Student's Name: _____ Student's Grade: _____ Date/Time of Injury: _____

Where and How Injury Occurred: *(Be sure to include cause and force of the hit or blow to the head.)* _____

Description of Injury: *(Be sure to include information about any loss of consciousness and for how long, memory loss, or seizures following the injury, or previous concussions, if any. See the section on Danger Signs on the back of this form.)* _____

| | 0 MINUTES | 15 MINUTES | 30 MINUTES | <input type="checkbox"/> MINUTES JUST PRIOR TO LEAVING |
|--|--------------|---------------|---------------|---|
| OBSERVED SIGNS | | | | |
| Appears dazed or stunned | | | | |
| Is confused about events | | | | |
| Repeats questions | | | | |
| Answers questions slowly | | | | |
| Can't recall events <i>prior</i> to the hit, bump, or fall | | | | |
| Can't recall events <i>after</i> the hit, bump, or fall | | | | |
| Loses consciousness (even briefly) | | | | |
| Shows behavior or personality changes | | | | |
| Forgets class schedule or assignments | | | | |
| PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS | | | | |
| Headache or "pressure" in head | | | | |
| Nausea or vomiting | | | | |
| Balance problems or dizziness | | | | |
| Fatigue or feeling tired | | | | |
| Blurry or double vision | | | | |
| Sensitivity to light | | | | |
| Sensitivity to noise | | | | |
| Numbness or tingling | | | | |
| Does not "feel right" | | | | |
| COGNITIVE SYMPTOMS | | | | |
| Difficulty thinking clearly | | | | |
| Difficulty concentrating | | | | |
| Difficulty remembering | | | | |
| Feeling more slowed down than usual | | | | |
| Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy | | | | |
| EMOTIONAL SYMPTOMS | | | | |
| Irritable | | | | |
| Sad | | | | |
| More emotional than usual | | | | |
| Nervous | | | | |

DIRECTIONS:

Use this checklist to monitor students who come to your office with a head injury. Students should be monitored for a minimum of 30 minutes. Check for signs or symptoms when the student first arrives at your office, 15 minutes later, and at the end of 30 minutes.

Students who experience one or more of the signs or symptoms of concussion after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head should be referred to a healthcare professional with experience in evaluating for concussion. For those instances when a parent is coming to take the student to a healthcare professional, observe the student for any new or worsening symptoms right before the student leaves. Send a copy of this checklist with the student for the healthcare professional to review.

To download this checklist in Spanish, please visit cdc.gov/HEADSUP. Para obtener una copia electrónica de esta lista de síntomas en español, por favor visite cdc.gov/HEADSUP.

Danger signs:

Be alert for symptoms that worsen over time. The student should be seen in an emergency department right away if she or he has one or more of these danger signs:

- One pupil (the black part in the middle of the eye) larger than the other
- Drowsiness or cannot be awakened
- A headache that gets worse and does not go away
- Weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- Slurred speech
- Convulsions or seizures
- Difficulty recognizing people or places
- Increasing confusion, restlessness, or agitation
- Unusual behavior
- Loss of consciousness (even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously)

Additional information about this checklist:

This checklist is also useful if a student appears to have sustained a head injury outside of school or on a previous school day. In such cases, be sure to ask the student about possible sleep symptoms. Drowsiness, sleeping more or less than usual, or difficulty falling asleep may indicate a concussion.

To maintain confidentiality and ensure privacy, this checklist is intended for use only by appropriate school professionals, healthcare professionals, and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s).

Resolution of injury:

- Student returned to class
- Student sent home
- Student referred to healthcare professional with experience in evaluating for concussion

SIGNATURE OF SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL COMPLETING THIS FORM: _____

TITLE: _____

COMMENTS:

Revised August 2019

To learn more,
go to [cdc.gov/HEADSUP](https://www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP)



Concussion Policy

Oregon Conference Schools

1. Required Training and Signatures

- a. All school staff, teachers, athletic directors, and coaches, including volunteers, are required to participate in annual concussion training.
- b. Free and approved Concussion Training Courses:
<https://nfhslearn.com/courses?searchText=Concussion>
- c. All parents of students participating in competitive sports are required to sign a concussion awareness form.

2. Recognize

Any student who receives a witnessed or suspected blow or jolt to the head must be removed and observed. School personnel are required to use the **Concussion Signs and Symptoms Checklist**. Students are to be monitored for a minimum of 30 minutes. Using the checklist, symptoms are monitored at 0 minutes, 15 minutes, and 30 minutes. Student may be released to class/play if no signs/symptoms are observed or reported.

3. Respond

If no signs/symptoms are observed: (1) Teachers/coaches are to be informed of the incident and must continue surveillance; (2) An Incident Report Form must be completed and provided to parents the same day.

4. Remove/Refer

If the student exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, he or she shall not be permitted to return to interactive play for recess, sports, or any other athletic contest or practice on that same day. An incident report must be completed and provided to parents, and the student is to be referred to a healthcare professional. Send a copy of the **Concussion Signs and Symptoms Checklist** with the student for the healthcare professional to review.

5. Return

When a student has suffered a concussion and is no longer experiencing signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with concussion, he or she must obtain a medical release form signed by a Qualified Health Care Professional to return to any type of physical exercise, recess, sports, or any other athletic contest or practice.

| References for Oregon Law | References for Washington Law |
|--|--|
| Max's law (OAR 581-022-0421) SB348 or ORS 336.485 Oregon Administrative Rule 581-022-0421 https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/standards/physicaleducation/Pages/Concussions.aspx#:~:text=This%20law%20requires%20individuals%20engaged,suspected%20of%20having%20a%20concussion. | Zackery Lystedt Law https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/schools/environmental-health/concussion-management |