

## 2022-2023

### CONCUSSION IN SPORTS Information

#### Sheet for Parents/Guardians

**Parents/Guardians of Athletes:** In order to help protect the student athletes of Norfolk Public Schools, the Virginia General Assembly in accordance with **Senate Bill 652** (Concussion in Student-Athletes) has mandated that all student athletes, parents and coaches follow the Norfolk Public Schools Concussion Policy. *Please read and sign this fact sheet and return it to your school's Athletic Director prior to participation in any school sponsored athletic activity.* This form **must** be reviewed and signed on a yearly basis.

#### What is a Concussion?

A concussion is a brain injury, otherwise known as a traumatic brain injury (TBI). A concussion is characterized by an onset of impairment of cognitive and/or physical functioning, and is caused by a blow to the head, face or neck, or a blow to the body that causes a sudden jarring of the head (i.e. a helmet to the head, being knocked to the ground). A concussion can occur with or without a loss of consciousness, and proper management is essential to the immediate safety and long-term outcomes of the injured individual. A repeat concussion that occurs before the brain recovers from the first can slow recovery or increase the likelihood of having long term problems. In rare cases, repeat concussion can result in edema (brain swelling), permanent brain damage, and even death.

#### What are the Signs and Symptoms of a Concussion?

**Signs observed by teammates, coaches, parents/guardians include:**

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|--|--|
| 1. Appears dazed or stunned  | 5. Loss of balance/coordination and moves clumsily |
| 2. Is confused about assignments and positions                       | 6. Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes    |
| 3. Forgets instructions and answers questions slowly or inaccurately | 7. Cannot recall events prior to hit or fall       |
| 4. Is unsure of game, score, or opponent                             | 8. Cannot recall events after hit or fall          |

**Symptoms reported by athlete may include one or more of the following:**

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|---|--|
| 1. Headache or "pressure" in head           | 6. Difficulty with concentration, short-term memory and/or confusion |
| 2. Nausea/vomiting                          | 7. Double vision or changes in vision                                |
| 3. Balance problems or dizziness            | 8. Irritability  |
| 4. Sensitivity to light or sound/noise      | 9. Just not "feeling right" or is "feeling down"                     |
| 5. Feeling sluggish, hazy, groggy, or foggy |  |

#### How can you Help your Child Prevent a Concussion?

Every sport is different, but there are steps your child can take to protect themselves from concussion:

- Follow the coach's rules for safety & the rules of the sport
- To practice good sportsmanship at all times
- Properly wear the right protective equipment that is required for their sport
- Learn the signs and symptoms of a concussion

## How can a concussion effect my child in the classroom?

A concussion can result in cognitive disturbances, in addition to physical symptoms. While recovering from a concussion, a student-athlete's academic performance, or ability to tolerate an academic environment, may be affected. In order to facilitate recovery, a Licensed Healthcare Provider may make temporary academic adjustments, or accommodations.

### Effects of concussion that can be observed by a teacher, or in the classroom:

1. Difficulty tolerating the school environment/cafeteria/hallways	6. Changes in academic performance
2. Difficulty concentrating	7. Trouble with test taking
3. Difficulty remembering	8. 'Daydreaming'
4. Falling asleep	9. Less engaged in class and/or with classmates
5. Head on desk	

### What Should you do if you Think your Child has a Concussion?

1. Seek medical attention right away. A licensed 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 an appropriate licensed health care professional gives clearance to return. 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. This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling (second impact syndrome) with devastating and even fatal consequences.
3. Tell your child's coach about any recent concussions. School personnel should be notified 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.

### Brief Overview of the Norfolk Public Schools Concussion Policy

A student-athlete who sustains a concussion must complete all of the following prior to return to participation in NPS athletics:

1. Return to full participation in academic activities, without accommodations/adjustments
2. Six-stage Graduated Return to play Protocol
3. Have been seen, and released, by a physician who has been trained in concussion management
4. Receive final clearance from the school's Athletic Trainer

**By signing this document, I acknowledge that I have reviewed the signs and symptoms of a concussion, agree to report a concussion, and agree to follow the NPS Concussion Policy (Full version available to view in Student Handbook).**

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**Print Name: Parent/Guardian**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parents/Guardians Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Print Name: Athlete**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Athlete's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

***REMEMBER: Don't hide it. Report it. Take time to recover.  
It's better to miss one game than the whole season!***