



CONCUSSION FACTS

Review and Retain this Form for your records. You do NOT need to submit this form. By signing page 1 of the Brandon Valley Physical Form, you acknowledge that you have read and understand the following information:

CONCUSSION FACTS FOR STUDENTS

What is a concussion?

A concussion is a brain injury that

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

All concussions are serious. A concussion can affect your ability to do schoolwork and other activities (such as playing video games, working on a computer, studying, driving, or exercising). Most people with a concussion get better, but it is important to give your brain time to heal.

What are the symptoms of a concussion?

You can't see a concussion, but you might notice one or more of the symptoms listed below or that you "don't feel right" soon after, a few days after, or even weeks after the injury.

- Headache or "pressure" in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Bothered by light or noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Difficulty paying attention
- Memory problems
- Confusion

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 right away if you think you have a concussion or if one of your teammates might have a concussion.
- **Get a medical check-up.** A doctor or other health care professional can tell if you have a concussion and when it is OK to return to play.
- **Give yourself time to get better.** If you have a concussion, your brain needs time to heal. While your brain is still healing, you are much more likely to have another concussion. Repeat concussions can increase the time it takes for you to recover and may cause more damage to your brain. It is important to rest and not return to play until you get the OK from your healthcare professional that you are symptom-free.

How can I prevent a concussion?

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

- Use the proper sports equipment, including personal protective equipment. In order for equipment to protect you, it must be:
 - The right equipment for the game, position, or activity.
 - Worn correctly and the correct size and fit.
 - Used every time you play or practice.
- Follow your coach's rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- Practice good sportsmanship at all times.

IT'S BETTER TO MISS ONE GAME THAN THE WHOLE SEASON. SEE SOMETHING; SAY SOMETHING!!

CONCUSSION FACTS FOR PARENTS

What is a concussion?

A concussion is a brain injury. Concussions are caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body. Even what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious.

What are the signs and symptoms?

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 after the injury. If your child reports one or more symptoms of concussion listed below or if you notice the symptoms yourself, keep your child out of play and seek medical attention right away.

| Signs Observed By Parents or Guardians | Symptoms Reported by Athlete |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Can't recall events prior to hit or fall • Can't recall events after hit or fall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headache or "pressure" in head • Nausea or vomiting • Balance problems or dizziness • Double or blurry vision • Sensitivity to light or noise • Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy or groggy • Concentration or memory problems • Confusion • Just not "feeling right" or is "feeling down" |

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 and other injuries.
 - Make sure they wear the right protective equipment for their activity. It should fit properly, be well maintained, and be worn consistently and correctly.
 - Ensure that they follow their coaches' rules for safety and the rules of the sport
 - Encourage them to practice good sportsmanship at all times.

What should you do if you think your child has a concussion?

1. **Keep your child out of play.** If your child has a concussion, her/his brain needs time to heal. Don't let your child return to play the day of the injury and until a healthcare professional, experienced in evaluating for concussion, says your child is symptom-free and it's OK to return to play. A repeat concussion that occurs before the brain recovers from the first - usually within a short period of time (hours, days, or weeks) - can slow recovery or increase the likelihood of having long-term problems. In rare cases, repeat concussions can result in edema (brain swelling), permanent brain damage, and even death.
2. **Seek medical attention right away.** A health care professional experienced in evaluating for concussion will be able to decide how serious the concussion is and when it is safe for your child to return to sports.
3. **Teach your child that it's not smart to play with a concussion.** Rest is key after a concussion. Sometimes athletes wrongly believe that it shows strength and courage to play injured. Discourage others from pressuring injured athletes to play. Don't let your child convince you that she/he is "just fine".
4. **Tell all of your child's coaches and the student's school nurse about ANY concussion.** Coaches, school nurses, and other school staff should know if your child has ever had a concussion. Your child may need to limit activities while s/he is recovering from a concussion. Things such as studying, driving, working on a computer, playing video games, or exercising may cause concussion symptoms to reappear or get worse. Talk to your health care professional, as well as your child's coaches, school nurse, and teachers. If needed, they can help adjust your child's school activities during her/his recovery.