



# Concussion Waiver

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 child 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:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Headaches</li><li>● “Pressure in head”</li><li>● Nausea or vomiting</li><li>● Neck pain</li><li>● Balance problems or dizziness</li><li>● Blurred, double, or fuzzy vision</li><li>● Sensitivity to light or noise</li><li>● Feeling sluggish or slowed down</li><li>● Feeling foggy or groggy</li><li>● Drowsiness</li><li>● Change in sleep patterns</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Amnesia</li><li>● “Don’t feel right”</li><li>● Fatigue or low energy</li><li>● Sadness</li><li>● Nervousness or anxiety</li><li>● Irritability</li><li>● More emotional</li><li>● Confusion</li><li>● Concentration or memory problems (forgetting game plays)</li><li>● Repeating the same question/comment</li></ul>
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## Signs observed by teammates, parents and coaches include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Appears dazed</li><li>● Vacant facial expression</li><li>● Confused about assignment</li><li>● Forgets plays</li><li>● Is unsure of game, score, or opponent</li><li>● Moves clumsily or displays incoordination</li><li>● Answers questions slowly</li><li>● Slurred speech</li><li>● Shows behavior or personality changes</li><li>● Can’t recall events prior to hit</li><li>● Can’t recall events after hit</li><li>● Seizures or convulsions</li><li>● Any change in typical behavior or personality</li><li>● Loses consciousness</li></ul>
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## **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 a 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 fail to report symptoms of injuries. Concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key to 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 new "Zackery Lystedt Law" in Washington now requires the consistent and uniform implementation of long and well-established return-to-play concussion guidelines that have been recommended for several years:

"a youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from competition at that time"

and

"...may not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussion and received written clearance to return to play from that health care provider".

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. And when in doubt, the athlete sits out.

Effective April 2012, Wisconsin Act 172 requires that before a student can participate in practice or competition the Fond du Lac School District and the Recreation Department provide you with the information regarding concussion and head injury. Parents and/or guardians are required to sign the enclosed information sheet prior to participation. A copy of Wisconsin Act 172 – 118.293 is available on our website. "Youth Athletic Activity" includes all ages and activities.

Our athletic coaches, athletic trainers, or officials involved with the District and Recreational activities will remove a student from youth athletic activity if the student exhibits signs, symptoms or behavior consistent with a concussion or head injury or the coach, athletic trainer or official suspects the student has sustained a concussion or head injury.

A student that has been removed from a youth athletic activity may not participate in athletic youth activity until he or she is evaluated by a health care provider and receives a written clearance to participate in the activity from a health care provider.



# Concussion Waiver

As a Parent, and as an Athlete, it is important to recognize the signs, symptoms, and behaviors of concussions. By signing this form you are stating that you understand the importance of recognizing and responding to the signs, symptoms and behaviors of a concussion or head injury and certify that you have read, and understand, and agree to abide by all of the information contained in this sheet. You further certify that if you have not understood any information contained in this document, you have sought and received an explanation of the information prior to signing this statement.

## Parent Agreement:

- I \_\_\_\_\_ have **read** the Parent Concussion and Head Injury Information and **understand** what a concussion is and how it may be caused. I also understand the common signs, symptoms, and behaviors. I agree that my child must be removed from practice/play if a concussion is suspected.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to seek medical treatment if a suspected concussion is reported to me.
- I understand that my child cannot return to practice/play until providing written clearance from an appropriate health care provider to his/her coach.
- I understand the possible consequences of my child returning to practice/play too soon.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Athlete Agreement:

- I \_\_\_\_\_ have **read** the Athlete Concussion and Head Injury Information and **understand** what a concussion is and how it may be caused.
- I understand the importance of reporting a suspected concussion to my coaches and my parents/guardian.
- I understand that I must be removed from practice/play if a concussion is suspected. I understand that I must provide written clearance from an appropriate health care provider to my coach before returning to practice/play.
- I understand the possible consequences of returning to practice/play too soon and that my brain needs time to heal.

Athlete Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

EBM Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Executive Board Member)

Possible Information Sheets can be obtained at the following sites:

<http://www.wiaawi.org/health/CoachGuide.pdf>  
<http://www.wiaawi.org/health/ParentFactSheet.pdf>  
<http://www.wiaawi.org/health/AthleteFactSheet.pdf>  
<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/index.html>  
<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/headsup/index.html>  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ConcussionInYouthSports/>