



VSAHA Player Safety Coordinator

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Each association is required to have a Player Safety Coordinator. This position is NOT the same as the Safe Sport Coordinator. The Player Safety Coordinator position was created by USA Hockey to help in the recording of injured players and their safe return to play. At the current time, the emphasis is on concussion reporting.

Each case within your organization that results in concussion and return to play should be recorded on a monthly basis, based on the information provided on the return to play form. This data will be utilized by the district to track compliance with the concussion management program and track concussions. Thank you for your dedication to player safety within USA Hockey.

Player Safety responsibilities:

1. Record, monthly, any concussion using the following link:

<https://sites.google.com/view/nedplayersafety/concussion/concussion-reporting>

No personal identifying information will be asked. This information can only be submitted by the associations registered Player Safety Coordinator.

2. Assist in making sure the USA Hockey Concussion Management Return to Play Form has been completed by the proper professionals and submitted to you for recording.

*The USA Hockey Concussion Management Protocol and most state statutes require that an athlete be removed from any training, practice or game if the exhibit any signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion or are suspected of sustaining a concussion. The player should not return to physical activity until he or she have been evaluated by a qualified medical provider who has provided written clearance to return to sports.

The RTP form can be found at the following link and should also be available on your association website.

<https://sites.google.com/view/nedplayersafety/concussion/return-to-play-form>

This form is to be used after an athlete has been removed from athletic activity due to a suspected concussion and must be signed by their medical provider in order to return without restriction to training, practice or competition.

For the past couple of years, the position of Player Safety has been primarily devoted to Covid protocol and reporting. Let's hope we can move forward from that and focus on keeping our members injury free, as well as helping those with injuries return to play as safely and quickly as possible.

Kyle Peckham, a fellow Vermonter, is the New England District Player Safety Coordinator. He can be reached by visiting the N.E.D. website: <https://sites.google.com/view/nedplayersafety/home>

Kyle reports to us that he is working on getting concussion cards out to associations and coaches in order to help drive compliance with the concussion management program and reporting of concussions.

Kyle also is focusing on stop the bleed training/knowledge. There is free training available at:

<https://www.stopthebleed.org/training/online-course/>

All are encouraged to view and complete the training, as well as pass along the info to other members of your organization. Kyle is working with N.E.D. on the funding and logistics of obtaining and distributing stop the bleed kits to each rink in the district.