



## Concussion Information Sheet

### Why am I getting this information sheet?

You are receiving this information sheet about concussions because of California state law AB 25 (effective January 1, 2012), now Education Code § 49475:

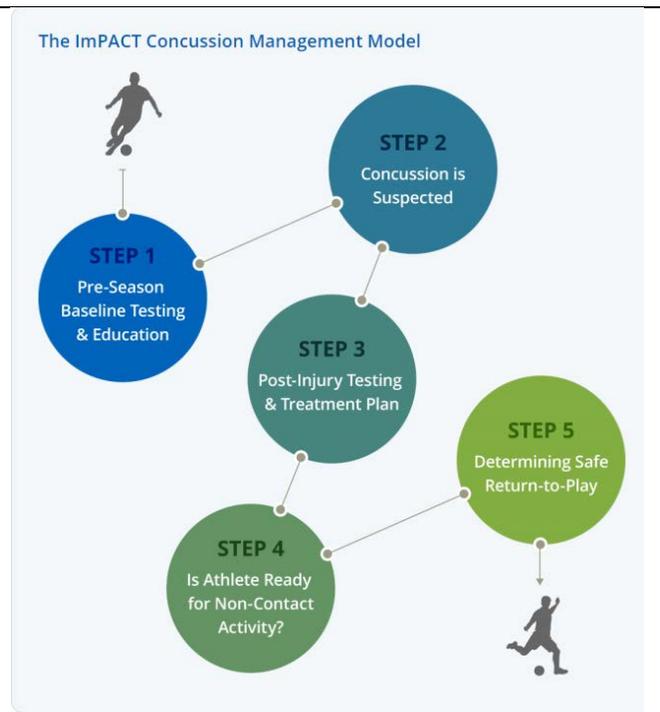
1. The law requires a student athlete who may have a concussion during a practice or game to be removed from the activity for the remainder of the day.
2. Any athlete removed for this reason must receive a written note from a medical doctor trained in the management of concussion before returning to practice.
3. Before an athlete can start the season and begin practice in a sport, a concussion information sheet must be signed and returned to the school by the athlete and the parent or guardian.

Every 2 years all coaches are required to receive training about concussions (AB 1451), as well as certification in First Aid training, CPR, and AEDs (life-saving electrical devices that can be used during CPR).

### What is RJUHSD concussion management program?

- All schools in the RJUHSD use a concussion management program known as ImPACT.
- All athletes that participate in high impact sports undergo a baseline cognitive test during the preseason.
- If an injury occurs, the athlete can then take a post-injury test.
- Results from both tests are given to the student's health care provider, who can then use the data to determine further treatment.
- Only a designated health care provider can clear an athlete to return to play.

**Contact your coach or the school nurse for more information about ImPACT.**



### What is a concussion and how would I recognize one?

A concussion is a kind of brain injury. It can be caused by a bump or hit to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force that shakes the head. Concussions can appear in any sport, and can look differently in each person.



Most concussions get better with rest and over 90% of athletes fully recover. However, all concussions should be considered serious. If not recognized and managed the right way, they may result in problems including brain damage and even death.

Most concussions occur without being knocked out. Signs and symptoms of may show up right after the injury or can take hours to appear. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion or if you notice some symptoms and signs, seek medical evaluation from your team’s athletic trainer and a medical doctor trained in the evaluation and management of concussion. If your child is vomiting, has a severe headache, or is having difficulty staying awake or answering simple questions, call 911 to take him or her immediately to the emergency department of your local hospital

	<p>Headache Nausea Vomiting Balance Problems Dizziness Visual Problems</p>	<p>Fatigue Sensitivity to Light Sensitivity to Noise Numbness/Tingling Dazed or Stunned</p>
	<p>Feeling mentally foggy Feeling slowed down Difficulty concentrating Difficulty remembering</p>	<p>Forgetful of recent information or conversation Confused about recent events Answers questions slowly Repeats questions</p>
	<p>Irritability Sadness More Emotional Nervousness</p>	
	<p>Drowsiness Sleeping less than usual Sleeping more than usual Trouble falling asleep</p>	

**What can happen if my child keeps playing with concussion symptoms or returns too soon after getting a concussion?**

Athletes with the signs and symptoms of concussion should be removed from play immediately. There is NO same day return to play for a youth with a suspected concussion. Youth athletes may take more time to recover from concussion and are more prone to long-term serious problems from a concussion.

Even though a traditional brain scan (e.g., MRI or CT) may be “normal”, the brain has still been injured. Animal and human research studies show that a second blow before the brain has recovered can result in serious damage to the brain. If your athlete suffers another concussion before completely recovering from the first one, this can lead to



prolonged recovery (weeks to months), or even to severe brain swelling (Second Impact Syndrome) with devastating consequences.

There is an increasing concern that head impact exposure and recurrent concussions may contribute to long-term neurological problems. One goal of this concussion program is to prevent a too early return to play so that serious brain damage can be prevented.

### **What is Return to Learn?**

Following a concussion, student athletes may have difficulties with short- and long-term memory, concentration and organization. They will require rest while recovering from injury (e.g., avoid reading, texting, video games, loud movies), and may even need to stay home from school for a few days. As they return to school, the schedule might need to start with a few classes or a half-day depending on how they feel. If recovery from a concussion is taking longer than expected, they may also benefit from a reduced class schedule and/or limited homework; a formal school assessment may also be necessary. Your school or doctor can help suggest and make these changes. Student athletes should complete the Return to Learn guidelines and return to complete school before beginning any sports or physical activities, unless your doctor makes other recommendations.

### **How is Return to Play (RTP) determined?**

Concussion symptoms should be completely gone before returning to competition. A RTP progression involves a gradual, step-wise increase in physical effort, sports-specific activities and the risk for contact. If symptoms occur with activity, the progression should be stopped. If there are no symptoms the next day, exercise can be restarted at the previous stage. RTP after concussion should occur only with medical clearance from a medical doctor trained in the evaluation and management of concussions, and a step-wise progression program monitored by an athletic trainer, coach, or other identified school administrator. ***[AB 2127, a California state law effective 1/1/15, states that return to play (i.e., full competition) must be no sooner than 7 days after the concussion diagnosis has been made by a physician.]***

### **Final Thoughts for Parents and Guardians:**

It is well known that high school athletes will often not talk about signs of concussions, which is why this information sheet is so important to review with them. Teach your child to tell the coaching staff if he or she experiences such symptoms, or if he or she suspects that a teammate has had a concussion. You should also feel comfortable talking to the coaches or athletic trainer about possible concussion signs and symptoms that you may be seeing in your child.

### **References:**

- American Medical Society for Sports Medicine position statement: concussion in sport (2013)
- Consensus statement on concussion in sport: the 4th International Conference on Concussion in Sport held in Zurich, November 2012
- <http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/youth.html> CIFSTATE.ORG CIF 5/2015