

OUR LADY OF THE ELMS HIGH SCHOOL

Concussion Information Form

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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Headaches | <input type="checkbox"/> Amnesia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> “Pressure in head” | <input type="checkbox"/> “Don’t feel right” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea or vomiting | <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue or low energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neck pain | <input type="checkbox"/> Sadness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Balance problems or dizziness | <input type="checkbox"/> Nervousness or anxiety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blurred, double, or fuzzy vision | <input type="checkbox"/> Irritability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitivity to light or noise | <input type="checkbox"/> More emotional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feeling sluggish or slowed down | <input type="checkbox"/> Confusion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feeling foggy or groggy | <input type="checkbox"/> Concentration or memory problems (forgetting game plays) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drowsiness | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeating the same question/comment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change in sleep patterns | |

Adapted from the CDC and the 3rd International Conference in Sport

Signs observed by teammates, parents and coaches include:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appears dazed | <input type="checkbox"/> Slurred speech |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant facial expression | <input type="checkbox"/> Shows behavior or personality changes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confused about assignment | <input type="checkbox"/> Can’t recall events prior to hit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forgets plays | <input type="checkbox"/> Can’t recall events after hit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is unsure of game, score, or opponent | <input type="checkbox"/> Seizures or convulsions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moves clumsily or displays poor coordination | <input type="checkbox"/> Any change in typical behavior or personality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Answers questions slowly | <input type="checkbox"/> Loses consciousness |

What can happen if my child keeps on playing with a concussion or returns too soon?

Athletes with the signs and symptoms of concussion shall 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 (second impact syndrome). This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes will often under report symptoms of injuries. And concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key for 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. You should also inform your child’s coach if you think that your child may have a concussion Remember its better to miss one game than miss the whole season. And when in doubt, the athlete sits out. For current and up-to-date information on concussions you can go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ConcussionInYouthSports/>

Student-athlete Name Printed Student-athlete Signature

Date

Parent or Legal Guardian Printed Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

Date