

Procedure for Head Injury Evaluation

- Certified Athletic Trainer(s) will complete full evaluation.
- If an athlete reports dizziness or “just not feeling right” they are automatically removed from play regardless of the rest of the evaluation.
 - *Reason: Dizziness is supported by literature. “Just not feeling right” due to the age of many of our athlete’s and that they may not be able to articulate their symptoms.*
- At the conclusion of the evaluation, the treating Certified Athletic Trainer(s) will make a decision regarding if they feel the athlete has a possible concussion or not. There will be no “check in tomorrow and let us know how you are feeling”;
 - *Reason: Per Kansas state law, if an athlete is suspected of having a concussion they must be seen by MD/DO. By saying “check back tomorrow and we will determine return to play” you are stating in a way they might have a concussion which means by law they need MD/DO clearance.*
- No concussion-Certified Athletic Trainer(s) will carefully and clearly explain that while an athlete is not presenting with a concussion at this time, symptoms can present themselves 24-48 hours later. Athletes and parents will be notified that Certified Athletic Trainer(s) will be available all weekend and should they start to feel worse/poorly, they need to notify the Certified Athletic Trainer(s) and be re-checked at that point.
- Suspected Concussion-After a full evaluation the athlete will be removed from play. The Certified Athletic Trainer(s) will notify parents that the athlete needs to seek an appointment with MD/DO in concussion management. Athlete must return with a doctor’s note with a diagnosis.
 - If diagnosed with a concussion athlete will not be allowed to return to play without getting a clearance from a MD/DO to start the 5 stage progression 72 hours after being symptom free. We will not accept urgent care or emergency room doctor notes for clearance.
 - If NOT diagnosed with a concussion, but athlete still has symptoms the Certified Athletic Trainer(s) have the authority to not allow the athlete to return to play.
 - If NOT diagnosed with a concussion and athlete is symptom free when returning the next day, athlete may return to play.
- The only time an athlete should be referred to the emergency room when having a suspected concussion is when the Certified Athletic Trainer(s) is concerned for a neck injury, skull fracture, brain bleed or more life threatening issues. A suspected concussion needs to be seen by a MD/DO trained in concussion management (this is not the emergency room or urgent care specialty).