

# HEADS\*UP

## CONCUSSION IN HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

A FACT SHEET FOR **ATHLETES**

### Concussion facts:

- A concussion is a brain injury that affects how your brain works.
- A concussion is caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body.
- A concussion can happen even if you haven't been knocked out.
- If you think you have a concussion, you should not return to play on the day of the injury and not until a health care professional says you are OK to return to play.

### What are the symptoms of a concussion?

Concussion symptoms differ with each person and with each injury, and they may not be noticeable for hours or days. Common symptoms include:

- Headache
- Confusion
- Difficulty remembering or paying attention
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Feeling irritable, more emotional, or "down"
- Nausea or vomiting
- Bothered by light or noise
- Double or blurry vision
- Slowed reaction time
- Sleep problems
- Loss of consciousness

During recovery, exercising or activities that involve a lot of concentration (such as studying, working on the computer, or playing video games) may cause concussion symptoms to reappear or get worse.

### What should I do if I think I have a concussion?

**DON'T HIDE IT. REPORT IT.** Ignoring your symptoms and trying to "tough it out" often makes symptoms worse. Tell your coach, parent, and athletic trainer if you think you or one of your teammates may have a concussion. Don't let anyone pressure you into continuing to practice or play with a concussion.

**GET CHECKED OUT.** Only a health care professional can tell if you have a concussion and when it's OK to return to play. Sports have injury timeouts and player substitutions so that you can get checked out and the team can perform at its best. The sooner you get checked out, the sooner you may be able to safely return to play.

**TAKE CARE OF YOUR BRAIN.** A concussion can affect your ability to do schoolwork and other activities. Most athletes with a concussion get better and return to sports, but it is important to rest and give your brain time to heal. A repeat concussion that occurs while your brain is still healing can cause long-term problems that may change your life forever.

### How can I help prevent a concussion?

Every sport is different, but there are steps you can take to protect yourself.

- Follow your coach's rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- Practice good sportsmanship at all times.

**If you think you have a concussion:**  
Don't hide it. Report it. Take time to recover.

**It's better to miss one game than the whole season.**

For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/Concussion](http://www.cdc.gov/Concussion).





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Concussion – Private School Informed Consent

Excerpt Executive Board Policies – Concussion Management

(Fall 2014)

B. "Member Private School's Responsibilities (Jenna's Law, ORS 417.875)

- 1) Concussion – Private School Informed Consent Form: On an annual basis prior to participation, private schools shall require each student and at least one parent or legal guardian of the student to sign the Concussion – Private School Informed Consent form acknowledging the receipt of information regarding symptoms and warning signs of concussions. Private schools shall maintain a copy of each student's signed form on file for review at any time by OSAA staff.
2) Suspected or Diagnosed Concussion: Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the head or body, or who has been diagnosed with a concussion, shall not be permitted to return to that athletic contest or practice, or any other athletic contest or practice on that same day.
3) Return to Participation: Until an athlete who has exhibited signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the head or body or who suffered a concussion is no longer experiencing signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, and a medical release form signed by an appropriate Health Care Professional (Physician (MD), Physician's Assistant (PA), Doctor of Osteopathic (DO) licensed by the Oregon State Board of Medicine, nurse practitioner licensed by the Oregon State Board of Nursing, or Psychologist licensed by the Oregon Board of Psychologist Examiners) is obtained, the athlete shall not be permitted to return to athletic activity."

See OSAA Executive Board Policies, "Concussion Management" for additional information.

Jenna's Law Compliance Statement

I certify that:

- 1. I have been provided with information on concussions in high school sports in compliance with ORS 417.875.
2. I understand that on an annual basis, the Concussion – Private School Informed Consent form shall be signed and turned into my school's Athletic Director by myself (or my parent or legal guardian if I am under the age of 18 years old) prior to my participation in a practice or competition.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
(Printed Name)

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
(Printed Name)