

AHSAA Concussion Information Form (Page 2)

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

Athletes with the signs and symptoms of concussion should be removed from play immediately. Continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of a concussion leaves the 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. This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling (second impact syndrome) with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes will often fail to report symptoms of injuries. Concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key to a student-athlete's safety.

AHSAA Concussion Policy: Any student-athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be removed from the contest and **shall not return that day**. Following the day the concussive symptoms occur, the student-athlete may return to practice or play only after a medical release has been issued by a medical doctor.

Any health care professional or AHSAA certified coach may identify concussive signs, symptoms or behaviors of a student athlete during any type of athletic activity. Once concussive signs are identified, only a medical doctor can clear an athlete to return to play. Any school in violation of the AHSAA policy application of the National Federation rule will be subject to sanctions.

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 on the same day he/she sustained an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear. The athlete may return the following day or anytime thereafter with written clearance from a medical doctor. 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 it's better to miss one game than miss the whole season. And when in doubt, the athlete sits out.

This form is required by Alabama Law established in June 2011. The form was revised in April 2012, coinciding with the current AHSAA Concussion Policy.

I have reviewed this information on concussions and am aware that a release by a medical doctor is required before a student may return to play under this policy.

_____ Student-Athlete Name Printed	_____ Student-Athlete Signature	_____ Date
_____ Parent Name Printed	_____ Parent Signature	_____ Date