

A FACT SHEET FOR High School Parents



This sheet has information to help protect your teens from concussion or other serious brain injury.

What is a concussion?

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury—or TBI—caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or by a hit to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. This fast movement can cause the brain to bounce around or twist in the skull, creating chemical changes in the brain and sometimes stretching and damaging the brain cells.

How can I help keep my teens safe?

Sports are a great way for teens to stay healthy and can help them do well in school. To help lower your teens' chances of getting a concussion or other serious brain injury, you should:

- Help create a culture of safety for the team.
 - > Work with their coach to teach ways to lower the chances of getting a concussion.
 - > Emphasize the importance of reporting concussions and taking time to recover from one.
 - > Ensure that they follow their coach's rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
 - > Tell your teens that you expect them to practice good sportsmanship at all time.
- When appropriate for the sport or activity, teach your teens that they must wear a helmet to lower the chances of the most serious types of brain or head injury. There is no "concussion-proof" helmet. Even with a helmet, it is important for teens to avoid hits to the head.

Talk with your teens about concussion.

Tell them to report their concussion symptoms to you and their coach right away.



How can I spot a possible concussion?

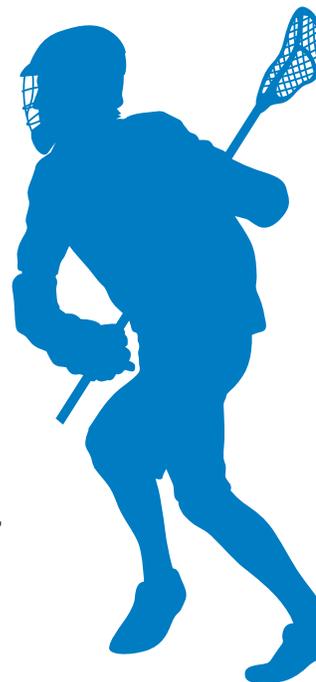
Teens who show or report one or more of the signs and symptoms listed below—or simply say they just “don’t feel right” after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body—may have a concussion or other serious brain injury.

Signs observed by parents

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about events
- Answers questions slowly
- Repeats questions
- Can't recall events *prior* to the hit, bump, or fall
- Can't recall events *after* the hit, bump, or fall
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Forgets an instruction or assignment

Symptoms reported by teens

- Headache or “pressure” in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Blurry or double vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Difficulty concentrating or remembering
- Just not “feeling right” or “feeling down”



CONCUSSIONS AFFECT EACH TEEN DIFFERENTLY.

Although most teens with a concussion feel better within a couple of weeks, some will have symptoms for months or longer. Talk with your teens' healthcare provider if their concussion symptoms do not go away or if they get worse after they return to their regular activities. **Be sure to offer support during their recovery and allow them to stay connected with friends and others.**

What are some more serious danger signs to look out for?

In rare cases, a dangerous collection of blood (hematoma) may form on the brain after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body, and can squeeze the brain against the skull. Call 9-1-1 or take your teen to the emergency department right away if after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body he or she has one or more of these danger signs:



- One pupil (the black part in the middle of the eye) larger than the other
- Drowsiness or cannot be awakened
- A headache that gets worse and does not go away
- Weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- Slurred speech
- Convulsions or seizures
- Difficulty recognizing people or places
- Increasing confusion, restlessness, or agitation
- Unusual behavior
- Loss of consciousness (even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously)

What should I do if my teen has a possible concussion?

As a parent, if you think your teen may have a concussion, you should:

1. Remove your teen from play.
2. Keep your teen out of play the day of the injury. Your teen should be seen by a healthcare provider and only return to play with permission from a healthcare provider who is experienced in evaluating for concussion.
3. Ask your teen's healthcare provider for written instructions on helping your teen return to school. You can give the instructions to your teen's school nurse and teacher(s) and return-to-play instructions to the coach and/or athletic trainer.

Do not try to judge the severity of the injury yourself. Only a healthcare provider should assess a teen for a possible concussion. You may not know how serious the concussion is at first, and some symptoms may not show up for hours or days. A teen's return to school and sports should be a gradual process that is carefully managed and monitored by a healthcare provider.

Teens who continue to play while having concussion symptoms or who return to play too soon—while the brain is still healing—have a greater chance of getting another concussion. A repeat concussion that occurs while the brain is still healing from the first injury can be very serious and can affect a teen for a lifetime. It can even be fatal.

Revised August 2019

To learn more,
go to [cdc.gov/HEADSUP](https://www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP)



A FACT SHEET FOR Athletes



This sheet has information to help you protect yourself from concussion or other serious brain injury and know what to do if a concussion occurs.

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury that affects how your brain works. It can happen when your brain gets bounced around in your skull after a fall or hit to the head.

What Should I Do If I Think I Have a Concussion?

Report It.

Tell your coach and parent if you think you or one of your teammates may have a concussion. You won't play your best if you are not feeling well, and playing with a concussion is dangerous. Encourage your teammates to also report their symptoms.



Get Checked Out by a Doctor.

If you think you have a concussion, do not return to play on the day of the injury. Only a doctor or other healthcare provider can tell whether you have a concussion and when it's OK to return to school and play.



Give Your Brain Time to Heal.

Most athletes with a concussion get better within a couple of weeks. For some, a concussion can make everyday activities, such as going to school, harder. You may need extra help getting back to your normal activities. Be sure to update your parents and doctor about how you are feeling.



GOOD TEAMMATES KNOW:
IT'S BETTER TO MISS ONE GAME THAN THE WHOLE SEASON.



cdc.gov/HEADSUP

How Can I Tell If I Have a Concussion?

You may have a concussion if you have any of these symptoms after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body:

-  **Get a headache**
-  **Feel dizzy, sluggish, or foggy**
-  **Are bothered by light or noise**
-  **Have double or blurry vision**
-  **Vomit or feel sick to your stomach**
-  **Have trouble focusing or problems remembering**
-  **Feel more emotional or “down”**
-  **Feel confused**
-  **Have problems with sleep**

A concussion feels different to each person, so it's important to tell your parents and doctor how you feel. You might notice concussion symptoms right away, but sometimes it takes hours or days until you notice that something isn't right.

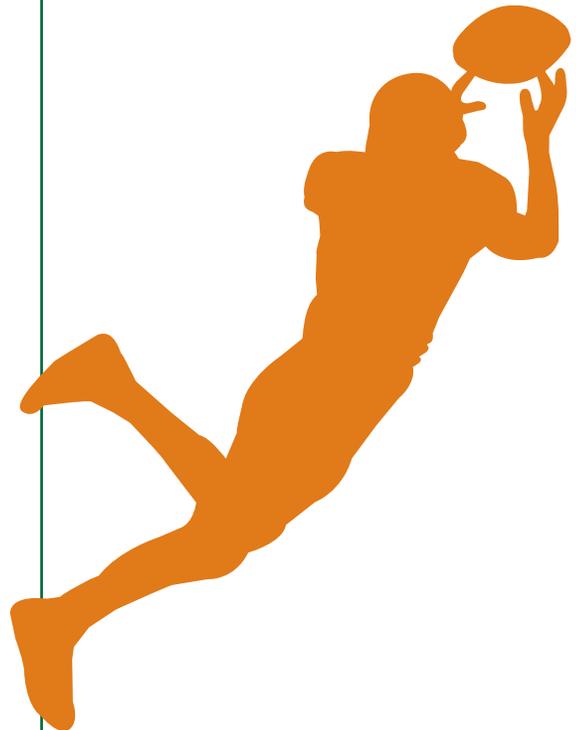
How Can I Help My Team?

Protect Your Brain.

All your teammates should avoid hits to the head and follow the rules for safe play to lower chances of getting a concussion.

Be a Team Player.

If one of your teammates has a concussion, tell them that they're an important part of the team and they should take the time they need to get better.



The information provided in this document or through linkages to other sites is not a substitute for medical or professional care. Questions about diagnosis and treatment for concussion should be directed to a physician or other healthcare provider.

Revised January 2019

To learn more,
go to [cdc.gov/HEADSUP](https://www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP)



CONCUSSION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SIGNATURE FORM
FOR PARENTS AND STUDENT ATHLETES

Student Athlete's Name (Please Print): _____

Sport Participating In (Current and Potential): _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

IC 20-34-7 requires schools to distribute information sheets to inform and educate student athletes and their parents on the nature and risk of concussion and head injury to student athletes, including the risks of continuing to play after concussion or head injury.

This law requires that each year, before beginning practice for an interscholastic sport, a student athlete and the student athlete's parents must be given an information sheet, and both must sign and return a form acknowledging receipt of the information to the student athlete's coach.

IC 20-34-7 states that an interscholastic student athlete, in grades 5-12, who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game, shall be removed from play at the time of injury and may not return to play until the student athlete has received a written clearance from a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and head injuries, and at least twenty-four hours have passed since the injury occurred.

Parent/Guardian - please read the Concussion Fact Sheet for Parents and ensure that your student athlete has received and read the Concussion Fact Sheet for Students. After reading these fact sheets, please ensure that you and your student athlete sign this form and have your student athlete return this form to his/her coach.

As a student athlete, I have received and read the Concussion Fact Sheet for Students. I understand the nature and risk of concussion and head injury to student athletes, including the risks of continuing to play after concussion or head injury.

(Signature of Student Athlete)

(Date)

I, as the parent or legal guardian of the above-named student, have received and read the Concussion Fact Sheet for Parents. I understand the nature and risk of concussion and head injury to student athletes, including the risks of continuing to play after concussion or head injury.

(Signature of Parent or Guardian)

(Date)