



NCHSAA Concussion Return to Play Protocol

*The **NCHSAA Concussion Return to Play (RTP) Protocol** is **REQUIRED** to be completed in its entirety for any concussed student-athlete before they are released to resume full participation in athletics. A step-by-step progression of physical and cognitive exertion is widely accepted as the appropriate approach to ensure a concussion has resolved, and that a student-athlete can return to athletics safely. The **NCHSAA Concussion (RTP) Protocol** has been designed using this step-by-step progression.

*The **NCHSAA Concussion (RTP) Protocol** can be monitored by any of the following Licensed Health Care Providers (LHCP): Licensed Physician (MD/DO), Licensed Athletic Trainer, Licensed Physician Assistant, Licensed Nurse Practitioner, or a Licensed Neuropsychologist. A First Responder may monitor the RTP Protocol if a LHCP is unavailable.

*After monitored completion of each stage without provocation/recurrence of signs and/or symptoms, a student-athlete is allowed to advance to the next stage of activity. The length of time for each stage is at least 24 hours.

Name of Student- Athlete: _____ Sport: _____ Male/Female

DOB: _____ Date of Injury: _____ Date Concussion Diagnosed: _____

STAGE	EXERCISE	GOAL	DATE COMPLETED	COMMENTS	MONITORED BY
1	20-30 min of cardio activity: walking, stationary bike.	Perceived intensity/exertion: Light Activity			
2	30 min of cardio activity: jogging at medium pace. Body weight resistance exercise (e.g. push-ups, lunge walks) with minimal head rotation x 25 each.	Perceived intensity/exertion: Moderate Activity			
3	30 minutes of cardio activity: running at fast pace, incorporate intervals. Increase repetitions of body weight resistance exercise (e.g. sit-ups, push-ups, lunge walks) x 50 each. Sport-specific agility drills in three planes of movement.	Perceived intensity/exertion: Hard Activity, changes of direction with increased head and eye movement			
4	Participate in non-contact practice drills. Warm-up and stretch x 10 minutes. Intense, <u>non-contact</u> , sport-specific agility drills x 30-60 minutes.	Perceived intensity/exertion: High/Maximum Effort Activity			
First Responder Verification	If the RTP Protocol has been monitored by a First Responder (FR) then the FR must sign below attesting that they have reviewed the progress of this student-athlete (S-A) through stage 4 electronically, by phone, or in person with the Licensed Health Care Provider (LHCP) and that the S-A was cleared by the LHCP to complete stage 5. <p style="text-align: center;">FR Signature: _____ Date: _____</p>				
5	Participate in full practice. If in a contact sport, controlled contact practice allowed.				
LHCP signs RTP Form	The LHCP overseeing the student-athlete's (S-A) care is notified that the S-A remained asymptomatic after stage 5 was completed. The Return to Play (RTP) Form MUST be signed before the S-A is allowed to resume full participation in athletics. If signs or symptoms occur after stage 5 the S-A MUST return to the LHCP overseeing the S-A's care.				

The individual who monitored the student-athlete's (RTP) Protocol MUST sign and date below when stage 5 is successfully completed.

By signing below, I attest that I have monitored the above named student-athlete's return to play protocol through stage 5.

Signature of Licensed Physician, Licensed Athletic Trainer, Licensed Physician Assistant,
Licensed Nurse Practitioner, Licensed Neuropsychologist, or First Responder (Please Circle)

Date

Please Print Name