NCHSAA Student-Athlete Concussion Management Algorithm

Licensed Health Care Providers (LHCP) are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED by the NCHSAA to have expertise and training in concussion management. LHCPs include the following individuals: Licensed Physician (MD/DO), Licensed Athletic Trainer (LAT), Licensed Physician Assistant (PA), Licensed Nurse Practitioner (NP), or Licensed Neuropsychologist.

Traumatic event or head injury occurs.

Student-athlete (S-A) has signs, symptoms, or behaviors of a concussion or is suspected to have sustained a concussion. NCHSAA Concussion Injury History is completed.

Based on evaluation (S-A) is diagnosed with a concussion.

LHCP evaluates (S-A).

LHCP Concussion Evaluation Recommendations
1. LHCP cares for the S-A and/or delegates aspects of care to another individual.
2. Recommendations are selected for SCHOOL, SPORTS, and PE based on the evaluation findings.

LHCP Concussion Return-To-Learn Recommendations
1. LHCP selects educational accommodations for the S-A.
2. Evaluation Recommendations and Return-to-Learn Recommendations are provided to appropriate school-based personnel and to the individual who will monitor the S-A’s Concussion Return-to-Play Protocol.

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 S-A before they are released to resume full participation in athletics.

If the RTP Protocol is monitored by the Licensed Athletic Trainer (LAT), or other LHCP, through stage 5 no office contact is necessary unless required by examining LHCP. Office contact, if required, may be made electronically, by phone, or in person to review the S-A’s progress. The LAT, or other LHCP, notifies the examining LHCP that the S-A remained asymptomatic after stage 5 is completed, if required to do so.

If the RTP Protocol has been monitored by a First Responder (FR) then the FR must sign attesting that they reviewed the progress of the S-A through stage 4 electronically, by phone, or in person with the LHCP and that the S-A was cleared by the LHCP to complete stage 5. The LHCP overseeing the S-A’s care is notified that the S-A remained asymptomatic after stage 5 is completed.

If signs or symptoms occur after stage 5 the S-A MUST return to the LHCP overseeing the S-A’s care.

Please refer to the Concussion Gradual Return-to-Play Protocol FAQ for additional guidance.

NCHSAA RETURN TO PLAY FORM

Licensed Health Care Provider: Must sign the Return to Play Form before the S-A is allowed to resume full participation in athletics.

Parent/Legal Custodian: Must sign Return to Play Form giving consent for their child to resume full participation in athletics before the child is allowed to resume full participation in athletics.

Athlete Resumes Full Participation in Athletics

Rev June 2018