NCHSAA Student-Athlete Concussion Management Algorithm

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

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.
Student-athlete is removed from play.
NCHSAA Concussion Injury History Form is completed.

On-site LHCP evaluates student-athlete.

Based on evaluation, student-athlete is assessed as having a concussion.

LHCP Concussion Evaluation Recommendations

1. After a neurologic and health evaluation, the LHCP cares for the student-athlete and / or delegates aspects of care to another individual.
2. Recommendations are selected for SCHOOL, SPORTS, and PE based on the evaluation findings and documented on the **Concussion Evaluation Recommendations form**.
3. Using the **Concussion Return to Learn form**, LHCP selects educational accommodations for the student-athlete.
4. The **Concussion Evaluation Recommendations form,** the **Concussion Return to Learn Recommendations form,** and when indicated, the Concussion **Return to Play Protocol form** are returned to appropriate school-based personnel and to the individual who will monitor the student-athlete's 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 student-athlete before they are released to resume full participation in athletics.

Contact with LHCP may be made electronically, by phone, or in person to review the student-athlete's progress.

If Monitored by the **Licensed Athletic Trainer (LAT) or other LHCP**

- Unless required by the supervising LHCP, no office contact is necessary through stage 5.
- If required, LAT or other LHCP contacts supervising LHCP confirming S-A has remained asymptomatic after stage 4.
- LHCP signs RTP Protocol Form attesting that they monitored RTP.

If Monitored by a **First Responder (FR)**

- FR must sign attesting that they reviewed the progress of the student-athlete through stage 3 and contacted the supervising LHCP before the athlete starts stage 4.
- The LHCP supervising the S-A's care is also contacted when the S-A has completed stage 5 and remained asymptomatic.
- FR signs RTP Protocol Form attesting that they monitored RTP.

LHCP and Parent / Legal Guardian must sign RTP Protocol Form attesting that student-athlete has completed protocol under appropriate supervision and are giving consent to resume full participation in athletics.

If signs or symptoms occur during stage 5 the S-A MUST return to the supervising LHCP.

Please refer to the concussion gradual RTP Protocol FAQ for additional guidance.

Athlete resumes unrestricted participation in athletics.

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