

## SHAWNEE MISSION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONCUSSION & HEAD INJURY INFORMATION RELEASE FORM

**This form must be signed by all student athletes and parent/guardians before the student participates in any athletic or spirit practice or contest each school year.**

A concussion is a brain injury and all brain injuries are serious. They are caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. They can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Even though most concussions are mild, **all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly.** In other words, even a “ding” or a bump on the head can be serious. You can’t see a concussion and most sports concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Signs and symptoms of concussion may show up right after the injury or can take hours or days to fully appear. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms or signs of concussion yourself, seek medical attention right away.

**Symptoms may include one or more of the following:**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Headaches<br><input type="checkbox"/> “Pressure in head”<br><input type="checkbox"/> Nausea or vomiting<br><input type="checkbox"/> Neck pain<br><input type="checkbox"/> Balance problems or dizziness<br><input type="checkbox"/> Blurred, double, or fuzzy vision<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sensitivity to light or noise<br><input type="checkbox"/> Feeling sluggish or slowed down<br><input type="checkbox"/> Feeling foggy or groggy<br><input type="checkbox"/> Drowsiness<br><input type="checkbox"/> Change in sleep patterns | <input type="checkbox"/> Amnesia<br><input type="checkbox"/> “Don’t feel right”<br><input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue or low energy<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sadness<br><input type="checkbox"/> Nervousness or anxiety<br><input type="checkbox"/> Irritability<br><input type="checkbox"/> More emotional<br><input type="checkbox"/> Confusion<br><input type="checkbox"/> Concentration or memory problems (forgetting game plays)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Repeating the same question/comment |
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**Signs observed by teammates, parents, and coaches include:**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Appears dazed<br><input type="checkbox"/> Vacant facial expression<br><input type="checkbox"/> Confused about assignment<br><input type="checkbox"/> Forgets plays<br><input type="checkbox"/> Is unsure of game, score, or opponent<br><input type="checkbox"/> Moves clumsily or displays incoordination<br><input type="checkbox"/> Answers questions slowly<br><input type="checkbox"/> Slurred speech<br><input type="checkbox"/> Shows behavior or personality changes<br><input type="checkbox"/> Can’t recall events prior to hit<br><input type="checkbox"/> Can’t recall events after hit<br><input type="checkbox"/> Seizures or convulsions<br><input type="checkbox"/> Any change in typical behavior or personality<br><input type="checkbox"/> Loses consciousness |
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Adapted from the CDC and the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference in Sport

**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 young 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 (second impact syndrome). This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes

will often under report symptoms of injuries. And concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key for student-athlete's safety.

### **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 after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without written medical clearance from a Medical Doctor (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO). 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 is better to miss one game than miss the whole season. **When in doubt, the athlete sits out!**

### **Cognitive Rest & Return to Learn**

The first step to concussion recovery is cognitive rest. This is essential for the brain to heal. Activities that require concentration and attention such as trying to meet academic requirements, the use of electronic devices (computers, tablets, video games, texting, etc.), and exposure to loud noises may worsen symptoms and delay recovery. Students may need their academic workload modified while they are initially recovering from a concussion. Decreasing stress on the brain early on after a concussion may lessen symptoms and shorten the recovery time. This may involve staying home from school for a few days, followed by a lightened school schedule, gradually increasing to normal. Any academic modifications should be coordinated jointly between the student's medical providers and school personnel. No consideration should be given to returning to physical activity until the student is fully integrated back into the classroom setting and is symptom free. Rarely, a student will be diagnosed with post-concussive syndrome and have symptoms that last weeks to months. In these cases, a student may be recommended to start a non-contact physical activity regimen, but this will only be done under the direct supervision of a healthcare provider.

### **Return to Practice and Competition**

The Kansas School Sports Head Injury Prevention Act provides that if an athlete suffers, or is suspected of having suffered, a concussion or head injury during a competition or practice, the athlete must be immediately removed from the competition or practice and cannot return to practice or competition until a Health Care Professional has evaluated the athlete and provided a written authorization to return to practice and competition. The KSHSAA recommends that an athlete not return to practice or competition the same day the athlete suffers or is suspected of suffering a concussion. The KSHSAA also recommends that an athlete's return to practice and competition should follow a graduated protocol under the supervision of the health care provider (MD or DO).

For current and up-to-date information on concussions you can go to:

**<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/youth.html>**

**<http://www.kansasconcussion.org/>**

For concussion information and educational resources collected by the KSHSAA, go to:

**<http://www.kshsaa.org/Public/General/ConcussionGuidelines.cfm>**

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Student-athlete Name Printed

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Student-athlete Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Legal Guardian Name Printed

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Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date