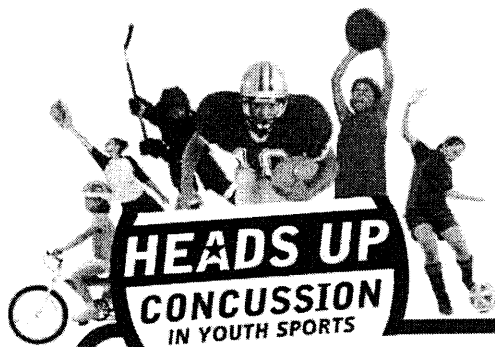


ATTACHMENT B

CONCUSSIONS MATERIALS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES



A Fact Sheet for **ATHLETES**

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury that:

- Is caused by a bump or blow to the head
- Can change the way your brain normally works
- Can occur during practices or games in any sport
- Can happen even if you haven't been knocked out
- Can be serious even if you've just been "dinged"

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION?

- Headache or "pressure" in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Bothered by light
- Bothered by noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Difficulty paying attention
- Memory problems
- Confusion
- Does not "feel right"

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK I HAVE A CONCUSSION?

- **Tell your coaches and your parents.** Never ignore a bump or blow to the head even if you feel fine. Also, tell your coach if one of your teammates might have a concussion.

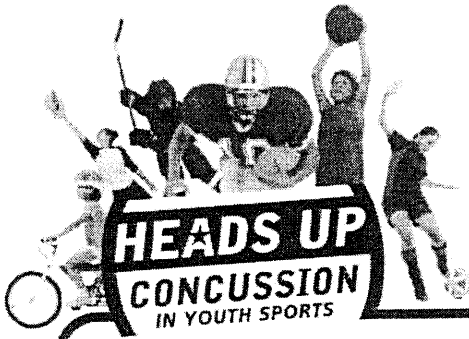
- **Get a medical check up.** A doctor or health care professional can tell you if you have a concussion and when you are OK to return to play.
- **Give yourself time to get better.** If you have had a concussion, your brain needs time to heal. While your brain is still healing, you are much more likely to have a second concussion. Second or later concussions can cause damage to your brain. It is important to rest until you get approval from a doctor or health care professional to return to play.

HOW CAN I PREVENT A CONCUSSION?

Every sport is different, but there are steps you can take to protect yourself.

- Follow your coach's rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- Practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- Use the proper sports equipment, including personal protective equipment (such as helmets, padding, shin guards, and eye and mouth guards). In order for equipment to protect you, it must be:
 - > The right equipment for the game, position, or activity
 - > Worn correctly and fit well
 - > Used every time you play

It's better to miss one game than the whole season.



A QUIZ FOR COACHES, ATHLETES, AND PARENTS

Review the "Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports" materials and test your knowledge of concussion.

Mark each of the following statements as True (T) or False (F)

1. A concussion is a brain injury.
2. Concussions can occur in any organized or unorganized recreational sport or activity.
3. You can't see a concussion and some athletes may not experience and/or report symptoms until hours or days after the injury.
4. Following a coach's rules for safety and the rules of the sport, practicing good sportsmanship at all times, and using the proper sports equipment are all ways that athletes can prevent a concussion.
5. Concussions can be caused by a fall or by a bump or blow to the head or body.
6. Concussion can happen even if the athlete hasn't been knocked out or lost consciousness.
7. Nausea, headaches, sensitivity to light or noise, and difficulty concentrating are some of the symptoms of a concussion.
8. Athletes who have a concussion should not return to play until they are symptom-free and have received approval from a doctor or health care professional.
9. A repeat concussion that occurs before the brain recovers from the first can slow recovery or increase the likelihood of having long-term problems.

ANSWER KEY: 1. True; 2. True; 3. True; 4. True; 5. True; 6. True; 7. True; 8. True; 9. True

It's better to miss one game than the whole season.

For more information and to order additional materials **free-of-charge**, visit:

www.cdc.gov/ConcussionInYouthSports