

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Athletes who experience one or more of the signs or symptoms listed below after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body may have a concussion.

SIGNS OBSERVED BY COACHING STAFF

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes
- Can't recall events *prior* to hit or fall
- Can't recall events *after* hit or fall

SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE

- Headache or “pressure” in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion
- Just not “feeling right” or is “feeling down”

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CDC HEADS UP
SAFE BRAIN. STRONGER FUTURE.

ACTION PLAN

As a coach, if you think an athlete may have a concussion, you should:

- 1. Remove the athlete from play.**
- 2. Keep an athlete with a possible concussion out of play on the same day of the injury and until cleared by a healthcare provider.** Do not try to judge the severity of the injury yourself. Only a healthcare provider should assess an athlete for a possible concussion.
- 3. Record and share information about the injury,** such as how it happened and the athlete's symptoms, to help a healthcare provider assess the athlete.
- 4. Inform the athlete's parent(s) or guardian(s)** about the possible concussion and refer them to CDC's website for concussion information.
- 5. Ask for written instructions from the athlete's healthcare provider** about the steps you should take to help the athlete safely return to play.

Before returning to play an athlete should:

- Be back to their regular activities (such as school).
- Not have any symptoms from the injury when doing regular activities.
- Have the green-light from their healthcare provider to begin the return to play process.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP

The information provided in this document or through links to other sites is not a substitute for medical or professional care. Questions about diagnosis and treatment for concussion should be directed to a physician or other healthcare provider.



IT'S BETTER TO MISS ONE GAME THAN THE WHOLE SEASON.