

## CONCUSSION INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS AND PLAYERS

### WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury. Concussions are caused by a bump or blow to the head. Even a "ding", "getting your bell rung", or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious. You can't see a concussion. Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after the injury or may not appear or be noticed until days or weeks after the injury. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the signs listed below yourself, seek medical attention right away.

### WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION?

If your child has experienced a bump or blow to the head during a game or practice, look for any of the following signs and symptoms of a concussion. The individual may report symptoms, you observe signs:

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)	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
Does not "feel right"	Shows behavior or personality changes
Can't recall events prior to or after hit or fall	

### HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD PREVENT A CONCUSSION?

- Every sport is different, but there are steps your children can take to protect themselves from concussion.
- Ensure that they follow their Manager's rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- Encourage them to practice good sportsmanship at all times. Make sure they wear the right protective equipment for their activity (such as batting helmets, catcher's gear such as shin guards, chest protector and helmet; and eye and mouth guards). Protective equipment should fit properly, be well maintained, be worn consistently and correctly.
- Learn the signs and symptoms of a concussion.

### WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU THINK YOUR CHILD HAS A CONCUSSION?

- Seek medical attention right away. A health care professional will be able to decide how serious the concussion is and when it is safe for your child to return to sports.
- Keep your child out of play. Concussions take time to heal. Don't let your child return to play until a health care professional says it's OK. Children who return to play too soon-while the brain is still healing- risk a greater chance of having a second concussion. Second or later concussions can be very serious. They can cause permanent damage, affecting your child for a lifetime.
- Tell your child's manager about any recent concussion. Managers should be informed if your child had a recent concussion in ANY sport. Your child's manager may not know about a concussion your child received in another sport or activity unless you tell him or her.

### WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE FOR A SUSPECTED CONCUSSION?

- Any athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from the activity at that time and for the remainder of the day.
- Any athlete who has been removed from activity may not return to play or practice until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussion and has received a written clearance to return to play from the health care provider.

### LET YOUR CHILD'S MANAGER KNOW RIGHT AWAY IF YOU SUSPECT YOUR CHILD HAS A CONCUSSION AND CONSULT YOUR PHYSICIAN!

Adapted from the CDC. For more information you can go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/ConcussionInYouthSports>

Athlete Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Athlete Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Legal Guardian Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_