

# RETURN TO ACTIVITIES

Revised April 2016

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3 _____

VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE, INC.  
1642 State Farm Blvd., Charlottesville, Va. 22911



## Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physical Examination Form

Separate signed form is required for each school year **May 1** of the current year through **June 30** of the succeeding year.

For School Year \_\_\_\_\_

### PART I - ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

(To be filled in and signed by the student)

Male \_\_\_\_\_

Female \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT CLEARLY

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address of Parents \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

This is my \_\_\_\_\_ semester in \_\_\_\_\_ High School, and my \_\_\_\_\_ semester since first entering the ninth grade. Last semester I attended \_\_\_\_\_ School and passed \_\_\_\_\_ credit subjects, and I am taking \_\_\_\_\_ credit subjects this semester. I have read the condensed individual eligibility rules of the Virginia High School League that appear below and believe I am eligible to represent my present high school in athletics.

#### INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY RULES

To be eligible to represent your school in any VHSL interscholastic athletic contest, you--

- must be a regular bona fide student in good standing of the school you represent.
- must be enrolled in the last four years of high school. (Eighth-grade students may be eligible for junior varsity.)
- must have enrolled not later than the fifteenth day of the current semester.
- for the first semester must be currently enrolled in not fewer than five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation and have passed five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation the immediately preceding year or the immediately preceding semester for schools that certify credits on a semester basis. (Check with your principal for equivalent requirements). May not repeat courses for eligibility purposes for which credit has been previously awarded.
- for the second semester must be currently enrolled in not fewer than five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation and have passed five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation the immediately preceding semester. (Check with your principal for equivalent requirements.)
- must sit out all VHSL competition for 365 consecutive calendar days following a school transfer unless the transfer corresponded with a family move. (Check with your principal for exceptions.)
- must not have reached your nineteenth birthday on or before the first day of August of the current school year.
- must not, after entering the ninth grade for the first time, have been enrolled in or been eligible for enrollment in high school more than eight consecutive semesters.
- must have submitted to your principal before any kind of participation, including tryouts or practice as a member of any school athletic or cheerleading team, an Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physical Examination Form, completely filled in and properly signed attesting that you have been examined during this school year and found to be physically fit for athletic competition and that your parents consent to your participation.
- must not be in violation of VHSL Amateur, Awards, All Star or College Team Rules. (Check with your principal for clarification in regard to cheerleading.)

Eligibility to participate in interscholastic athletics is a privilege you earn by meeting not only the above-listed minimum standards, but also all other standards set by your League, district and school. If you have any question regarding your eligibility or are in doubt about the effect an activity might have on your eligibility, check with your principal for interpretations and exceptions provided under League rules. Meeting the intent and spirit of League standards will prevent you, your team, school and community from being penalized. Additionally, I give my consent and approval for my picture and name to be printed in any high school or VHSL athletic program, publication or video.

LOCAL SCHOOL DIVISIONS AND VHSL DISTRICTS MAY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL STANDARDS TO THOSE LISTED ABOVE.

\* Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Providing false information will result in ineligibility for one year.

**STUDENT MUST SIGN**



# PARENTS COMPLETE

Revised April 2016

The pre-participation physical examination is not a substitute for a thorough annual examination by a student's primary care physician

## PART II - - MEDICAL HISTORY- Explain "Yes" answers below

**\* This form must be completed and signed, prior to the physical examination, for review by examining practitioner. Explain "Yes" answers below with number of the question. Circle questions you don't know the answers to.**

GENERAL MEDICAL HISTORY	Yes	No	MEDICAL QUESTIONS (cont)	Yes	No
1. Has a doctor ever denied or restricted your participation in sports for any reason?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	29. Do you have groin pain or a painful bulge or hernia in the groin area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you currently have an ongoing medical condition? If so, Please identify: <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma <input type="checkbox"/> Anemia <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> Infections <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	30. Have you had mononucleosis (mono) within the last month?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Have you ever spent the night in the hospital?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	31. Do you have any rashes, pressure sores, or other skin problems?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Have you ever had surgery?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	32. Have you ever had a herpes or MRSA skin infection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	33. Are you currently taking any medication on daily basis?	<input type="checkbox"/> *	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Have you ever passed out or nearly passed out DURING or AFTER exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	34. Have you ever had a head injury or concussion? If so, date of last injury:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Have you ever had discomfort, pain, or pressure in your chest during exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	35. Have you ever had numbness, tingling, or weakness in your arms or legs after being hit or falling?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Does your heart race or skip beats during exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	36. Do you have headaches with exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Has a doctor ever told you that you have (check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> High Blood Pressure <input type="checkbox"/> A heart murmur <input type="checkbox"/> High cholesterol <input type="checkbox"/> A heart infection <input type="checkbox"/> Kawasaki disease <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	37. Have you ever been unable to move your arms or legs after being hit or falling?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Has a doctor ever ordered a test for your heart? (For ex: ECG/EKG, echocardiogram)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	38. When exercising in heat, do you have severe muscle cramps or become ill?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Do you get lightheaded or feel more short of breath than expected during exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	39. Has a doctor told you that you or someone in your family has sickle cell trait or sickle cell disease?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Have you ever had an unexplained seizure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	40. Have you had any other blood disorders?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	41. Have you had any problems with your eyes or vision?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Has any family member or relative died of heart problems or had an unexpected sudden death before age 50 (including drowning, unexplained car accident, or sudden infant death syndrome)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	42. Do you wear glasses or contact lenses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Does anyone in your family have a heart problem?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	43. Do you wear protective eyewear, such as goggles or a face shield?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Does anyone in your family have a pacemaker or implanted defibrillator?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	44. Do you worry about your weight?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Does anyone in your family have Marfan syndrome, cardiomyopathy, or Long Q-T?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	45. Are you trying to or has any professional recommended that you try to gain or lose weight?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Has anyone in your family had unexplained fainting, unexplained seizures, or near drowning?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	46. Do you limit or carefully control what you eat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BONE AND JOINT QUESTIONS</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	47. Do you have any concerns that you would like to discuss with a doctor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Have you ever had an injury, like a sprain, muscle or ligament tear, or tendonitis that caused you to miss a practice or game?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	48. What is the date of your last Tdap or Td(tetanus) immunization? (circle type) Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Have you had any broken or fractured bones or dislocated joints?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	49. Do you have an allergy to medicine, food or stinging insects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Have you had a bone or joint injury that required x-rays, MRI, CT, surgery, injections, rehabilitation, physical therapy, a brace, a cast, or crutches?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>FEMALES ONLY</b>		
20. Have you ever had an x-ray of your neck for atlanto-axial instability? OR Have you ever been told that you have that disorder or any neck/spine problem?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50. Have you ever had a menstrual period?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Have you ever had a stress fracture of a bone?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	51. Age when you had your first menstrual period? _____		
22. Do you regularly use a brace or assistive device?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	52. How many periods have you had in the last 12 months? _____		
23. Do you currently have a bone, muscle, or joint injury that bothers you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>EXPLAIN "YES" ANSWERS BELOW:</b>		
24. Do any of your joints become painful, swollen, feel warm, or look red?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	# _____ » _____		
25. Do you have a history of juvenile arthritis or connective tissue disease?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	# _____ » _____		
<b>MEDICAL QUESTIONS</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	# _____ » _____		
26. Do you cough, wheeze, or have difficulty breathing during or after exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	# _____ » _____		
27. Do you have asthma or use asthma medicine (inhaler, nebulizer)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	*List medications and nutritional supplements you are currently taking here:		
28. Were you born without or are you missing a kidney, an eye, a testicle, spleen or any other organ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

**MUST HAVE EXACT DATE**

**\* ☀** Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ **\* \*** Athlete's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## TWO SIGNATURES REQUIRED



# EXAM - MAY 1 OR LATER

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## PART III - PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

(Physical examination form is required each school year dated after May 1 of the preceding school year and is good through June 30<sup>th</sup> of the current school year)\*\*

\* NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Height	Weight	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
BP /	Resting Pulse	Vision R 20/	L 20/
		Corrected	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

MEDICAL	NORMAL	ABNORMAL FINDINGS
Appearance		
Eyes/ears/nose/throat		
Lymph nodes		
Heart		
Pulses		
Lungs		
Abdomen		
Genitourinary (males only)		
Skin		
Neurologic		
MUSCULOSKELETAL	NORMAL	ABNORMAL FINDINGS
Neck		
Back		
Shoulder/arm		
Elbow/forearm		
Wrist/hand/fingers		
Hip/thigh		
Knee		
Leg/ankle		
Foot/toes		
Functional		

### Medical Practitioner to School Staff (please indicate any instructions or recommendations here)

Emergency medications required on-site

Inhaler  Epinephrine  Glucagon  Other:

Comments:

I have reviewed the data above, reviewed his/her medical history form and make the following recommendations for his/her participation in athletics.

- CLEARED WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS
- CLEARED WITH FOLLOWING NOTATION: \_\_\_\_\_
- Cleared AFTER documented further evaluation or treatment for: \_\_\_\_\_
- Cleared for Limited participation (check and explain "reason" for all that apply): "Limited Until Date" when appropriate
  - Not cleared for (specific sports) \_\_\_\_\_ Until Date: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Reason(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- NOT CLEARED FOR PARTICIPATION Reason \_\_\_\_\_

*By this signature, I attest that I have examined the above student and completed this pre-participation physical including a review of Part II - Medical History.*

\* Physician Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (\*MD, DO, LNP, PA) . Date\*\* \_\_\_\_\_ \*

Circle one

Examiner's Name and degree (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\* Only signatures of Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant licensed to practice in the United States will be accepted.

Rule 28B-3-1 (3) Physical Examination Rule/Transfer Student (10-90) - When an out-of-state student who has received a current physical examination elsewhere transfers to Virginia and attaches proof of that physical examination to the League's Form #2, the student is in compliance with physical examination requirements.

# DR'S OFFICE MUST STAMP FORM



**PART IV -- ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK AND INSURANCE STATEMENT**

*(To be completed and signed by parent/guardian)*

I give permission for \_\_\_\_\_ (name of child/ward) to participate in any of the following sports that are not crossed out: baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, field hockey, football, golf, gymnastics, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming/diving, tennis, track, volleyball, wrestling, other (identify sports) \_\_\_\_\_

I have reviewed the individual eligibility rules and I am aware that with the participation in sports comes the risk of injury to my child/ward. I understand that the degree of danger and the seriousness of the risk varies significantly from one sport to another with contact sports carrying the higher risk. I have had an opportunity to understand the risk inherent in sports through meetings, written handouts, or some other means. He/she has student medical/accident insurance available through the school (yes\_\_\_ no\_\_\_); has athletic participation insurance coverage through the school (yes\_\_\_ no\_\_\_); is insured by our family policy with:

Name of Medical Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Policy Holder: \_\_\_\_\_

I am aware that participating in sports will involve travel with the team. I acknowledge and accept the risks inherent in the sport and with the travel involved and with this knowledge in mind, grant permission for my child/ward to participate in the sport and travel with the team.

By this signature, I hereby consent to allow the physician(s) and other health care provider(s) selected by myself or the school to perform a pre-participation examination on my child and to provide treatment for any injury or condition resulting from participating in athletics/activities for his/her school during the school year covered by this form. I further consent to allow said physician(s) or health care provider(s) to share appropriate information concerning my child that is relevant to participation in athletics and activities with coaches and other school personnel as deemed necessary.

Additionally I give my consent and approval for the above named student's picture and name to be printed in any high school or VHSL athletic program, publication or video.

**PART V - EMERGENCY PERMISSION FORM**

*(To be completed and signed by parent/guardian)*

STUDENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any significant health problems that might be significant to a physician evaluating your child in case of an emergency

Please list any allergies to medications, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Is the student currently prescribed an inhaler or Epi-Pen? \_\_\_\_\_ List the emergency medication: \_\_\_\_\_

Is student presently taking any other medication? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what type? \_\_\_\_\_

Does student wear contact lenses? \_\_\_\_\_ Date of last Tdap or Td (tetanus) shot \_\_\_\_\_ \*

**EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION:** In the event I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give permission to physicians selected by the coaches and staff of \_\_\_\_\_ High School to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for and to order injection and/or anesthesia and/or surgery for the person named above.

Daytime phone number (where to reach you in emergency) \_\_\_\_\_

Evening time phone number (where to reach you in emergency) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

\* ☼▶▶ Signature of parent or guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to student \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Emergency Permission Form may be reproduced to travel with respective teams and is acceptable for emergency treatment if needed.

\* ☼▶▶ I certify all the above information is correct \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

The pre-participation physical examination is not a substitute for a thorough annual examination by a student's primary care physician.

**PARENT MUST SIGN**

INSURANCE IS REQUIRED

EXACT DATE



Arlington Public Schools Athletic/Co-Curricular Participation Agreement

Participation in athletics and co-curricular activities is a privilege. Arlington Public Schools recognizes the value of athletic and co-curricular activities and how it supports the development of well-rounded adults while addressing students' interests and aptitudes.

Student Behavior and Disciplinary Responsibilities: APS encourages students to behave in a manner that promotes a positive learning environment. APS disciplinary policy prohibits bullying, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and abuse, substance use, and other negative and potentially illegal behaviors. These policies are outlined on the APS website and in the APS Handbook. Students may be disciplined for violation of APS disciplinary policy while on school premises, in proximity to school premises, when coming to or going from school, while on school-owned and operated school buses or on chartered buses, while engaged in an approved and supervised activity on or off school premises, and when the good order, safety or welfare of the school or its students is affected as a result of the out of school action. A student participating in APS athletics and/or co-curricular activities who violates an APS disciplinary policy may, in addition to other disciplinary action, be suspended or expelled from participation in APS athletics and/or co-curricular activities, as determined by the appropriate APS staff member.

Conussions and Students: Concussions can occur in any sport or activity. A student who is identified as having, or is suspected of having, a brain injury will be removed from practice/game and not allowed to return unless cleared by a licensed health care provider as identified by The Code of Virginia §22.1-271.5. An athlete should not return to physical activity while still experiencing symptoms since the brain is particularly vulnerable to further injury and more permanent damage or even death. Concussions are managed best by a multi-disciplinary approach that includes the student-athlete, parent, school and medical personnel. By our signatures below, we (the student and his/her parent or guardian) acknowledge receipt of, and certify that we have read in its entirety and understand, "Concussion Fact Sheet" provided by the Arlington Public Schools which is also found at the secondary schools web site. We further understand that if we have any questions about the information we can contact the high school athletic trainer or director of student activities, or the middle school student activity coordinator. The high school athletic trainer has the final decision on the athlete's return to play status.

Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk: We, the student and parents or guardians who have signed this form, consent to the athletic and/or co-curricular activity participation agreement and transportation through Arlington Public Schools. We agree to follow the rules and instructions of the APS Handbook, the student's school, the coaching staff, athletic trainers and the Virginia High School League (VHSL) and to abide by their administrative decisions. We agree to and understand the many risks involved in participation. We understand that injuries requiring medical attention, serious injuries, permanent disability or death can result from such participation. Further, because athletic participation involves shared facilities, equipment and physical contact, student are at increased risk for exposure to communicable diseases and skin infections. I choose to voluntarily accept all such risks. With the full understanding of the risks involved, we agree and accept all responsibility for the student's safety, health and welfare while participating in athletics and student activities.

This form should be signed by both the student and parent(s) or guardian(s).

BY SIGNING BELOW, I STATE THAT THIS AGREEMENT HAS BEEN CAREFULLY READ AND UNDERSTOOD BY ME. I ACKNOWLEDGE ITS TERMS AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THEM.

\* \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Print Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

\* \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Failure to sign this agreement does not exempt a student from the school's responsibility to enforce the agreement.

# STUDENTS READ & KEEP AT HOME

## Arlington Public Schools Athletics

### Fact Sheet on Concussions for Students

#### *What is a Concussion?*

A concussion is a brain injury caused by a bump or blow to the head or body. A concussion occurs when the brain is violently rocked back and forth or twisted in the skull. It does not have to involve a loss of consciousness. All concussions are serious.

Concussions can occur in any sport, but more frequently in football, basketball, lacrosse, soccer and wrestling. An athlete who is identified with a brain injury will be removed from practice/game and not allowed to return unless cleared by a licensed health care provider. An athlete should not return to physical activity while still experiencing symptoms since the brain is particularly vulnerable to further injury and more permanent damage or even death.

#### *Signs and Symptoms of a Concussion*

A concussion may have multiple symptoms that may appear immediately after the injury. Other symptoms may take several days or weeks to develop. Concussion symptoms may last a few days to several months. If you have a blow or bump to the head, look for these *signs and symptoms of a concussion*:

##### Signs

- Feeling dazed stunned
- Confusion about assignment or position
- Forgetting an instruction
- Being unsure about the game, score, or opponent
- Moving clumsily
- Answering questions slowly
- Losing consciousness (even briefly)
- Showing behavior or personality changes
- Unable to recall events prior to the hit or fall

##### Symptoms

- Unable to recall events after a hit or fall
- 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
- Not feeling "right"

#### *Can I Prevent a Concussion?*

There are many risks involved in athletic participation, but there are steps you can take to protect yourself from a concussion.

- Follow the rules of the sport.
- Use safety equipment, making sure it is appropriate for the activity, fits properly, is maintained, and is worn consistently and correctly.
- Practice good sportsmanship.
- Know the signs and symptoms of a concussion.

# Arlington Public Schools Athletics

## What Should I Do if I Think I Have a Concussion?

1. **Tell your athletic trainer and/or coach and parents.** Never ignore a bump/blow to the head even if you feel fine. Also, tell your coach if you know a team mate had a bump or blow to the head, or if you think that a teammate is showing signs of a concussion.
2. **Seek medical attention immediately.** A health care professional will be able to evaluate you and determine when it is safe to return to athletic participation and regular activities.
3. **Give yourself time to get better.** Concussions require time to heal and your brain needs to rest. Returning to participation too soon while the brain is still healing puts you at risk for further injury and a second concussion that can be more serious and life-threatening (Second Impact Syndrome). Do not return to play until you get approval from a health care professional.

## When Can I Return to Play?

### Day of Injury

No member of a school athletic team shall participate in any athletic event or practice the same day he or she is injured and:

- Exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors attributable to a concussion; or
- Has been diagnosed with a concussion.

### Following Days

No member of a school athletic team shall return to participate in an athletic event or training on the days after he/she experiences a concussion unless all of the following conditions have been met:

- The student no longer exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion, either at rest or with exertion;
- The student is asymptomatic during or after periods of supervised exercise that is gradually intensifying; and
- The student receives a written medical release from a licensed health care provider.

At high school level, the school's athletic trainer has the final authority in deciding if the student-athlete is eligible to return to play.

### Graduated Return-to-Play Protocol\*

#### Rehabilitation Stage

1. No Activity
2. Light aerobic exercise
3. Sport-Specific Exercise
4. Non-contact training drills
5. Full contact practice
6. Return to play

#### Functional Exercise at Each Stage of Rehabilitation

- Complete physical and cognitive rest
- Walking, swimming or stationary cycling keeping intensity at less than 70% of the maximum predicted heart rate
- No resistance training
- Skating drills in ice hockey, running drills in soccer. No head impact activities
- Progression to more complex training drills, e.g. passing drills in football and ice hockey
- May start progressive resistance training
- Following medical clearance, participate in normal training activities
- Normal game play

\*Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport: Third International Conference on Concussion in Sport held in Zurich, November 2008.

**IT IS BETTER TO MISS A GAME OR TWO RATHER THAN THE WHOLE SEASON OR MORE.**

READ & KEEP AT HOME  
**Arlington Public Schools Athletics**

**Fact Sheet on Concussions for Parents/Guardians**

***What is a Concussion?***

A concussion is a brain injury caused by a bump or blow to the head or body. A concussion occurs when the brain is violently rocked back and forth or twisted in the skull. It does not have to involve a loss of consciousness. All concussions are serious.

Concussions can occur in any sport, but more frequently in football, basketball, lacrosse, soccer and wrestling. An athlete who is identified with a brain injury will be removed from practice/game and not allowed to return unless cleared by a licensed health care provider. An athlete should not return to physical activity while still experiencing symptoms since the brain is particularly vulnerable to further injury and more permanent damage or even death.

***Signs and Symptoms of a Concussion***

A concussion may have multiple symptoms that may appear immediately after the injury. Other symptoms may take several days or weeks to develop. Concussion symptoms may last a few days to several months. If your child has had a blow or bump to the head, look for these *signs and symptoms of a concussion*:

Signs

- Appears dazed/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 behavior or personality changes
- Can't recall events prior to hit or fall

Symptoms

- Can't recall events after hit or fall
- 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"

***How Can You Help Your Child Prevent a Concussion?***

There are many risks involved in athletic participation, but there are steps your children can take to protect themselves from a concussion.

- Follow the rules of the sport.
- Use safety equipment, making sure it is appropriate for the activity, fits properly, is maintained, and is worn consistently and correctly.
- Practice good sportsmanship.
- Know the signs and symptoms of a concussion.

***What Should You Do if You Think Your Child Has a Concussion?***

1. **Seek medical attention immediately.** A health care professional will be able to evaluate your child and determine when it is safe for your child to return to athletic participation and regular activities.
2. **Keep your child out of play.** Concussions require time to heal. Returning to participation too soon and while the brain is still healing puts the child in a vulnerable position for further injury and a second concussion that can be more serious and life-threatening (Second Impact Syndrome).



# Arlington Public Schools Athletics

3. Tell your child's athletic trainer and/or coach about any concussion. The athletic trainer and coaches should have knowledge of any concussion (recent or past).

## What Can I Do as a Parent?

- Parents and students should know and be able to recognize the signs and symptoms of a concussion.
- Remind your child to tell the athletic trainer and coach if he/she experiences any symptoms of a concussion.
- Remind your child to tell the athletic trainer and coach if he/she suspects that a teammate might be experiencing any signs or symptoms of a concussion.
- Ask teachers to monitor your child's academic progress and behavior since changes could indicate a concussion.
- Report your child's concussion history to the athletic trainer and future coaches as they move to the next season/sport.

## When Can a Child Return to Play?

### Day of Injury

No member of a school athletic team shall participate in any athletic event or practice the same day he or she is injured and:

- Exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors attributable to a concussion; or
- Has been diagnosed with a concussion.

### Following Days

No member of a school athletic team shall return to participate in an athletic event or training on the days after he/she experiences a concussion unless all of the following conditions have been met:

- The student no longer exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion, either at rest or with exertion;
- The student is asymptomatic during or after periods of supervised exercise that is gradually intensifying; and
- The student receives a written medical release from a licensed health care provider.

At high school level, the school's athletic trainer has the final authority in deciding if the student-athlete is eligible to return to play.

### Graduated Return-to-Play Protocol\*

#### Rehabilitation Stage

1. No Activity
2. Light aerobic exercise
3. Sport-Specific Exercise
4. Non-contact training drills
5. Full contact practice
6. Return to play

#### Functional Exercise at Each Stage of Rehabilitation

- Complete physical and cognitive rest
- Walking, swimming or stationary cycling keeping intensity at less than 70% of the maximum predicted heart rate
- No resistance training
- Skating drills in ice hockey, running drills in soccer. No head impact activities
- Progression to more complex training drills, e.g. passing drills in football and ice hockey
- May start progressive resistance training
- Following medical clearance participate in normal training activities
- Normal game play

\*Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport: Third International Conference on Concussion in Sport held in Zurich, November 2008.

**IT IS BETTER TO MISS A GAME OR TWO RATHER THAN THE WHOLE SEASON OR MORE.**