

Concussion & Return to Play Policy

HYBL is a county recreation program that is affiliated with the Hanover County Parks and Recreation program and utilize school facilities for activities.

State law mandates that school divisions provide information to parents and students concerning the risk of concussion, its consequences, and procedures for returning to participation after an incident. The goals of the “Student-Athlete Protection Act (SB 652)” are to ensure that student-athletes who sustain concussions are properly diagnosed, given adequate time to heal, and are comprehensively supported until they are symptom free.

This form must be signed and on file each HYBL season in order for the athlete to be able to participate in activities.

I. Definition of Concussion

A brain injury that is characterized by an onset of impairment of cognitive and /or physical functioning, and is caused by a blow to the head, face or neck, or a blow to the body that causes a sudden jarring of the head. A concussion can occur with or without a loss of consciousness, and proper management is essential to the immediate safety and long-term future of the injured individual.

II. Signs and Symptoms

Signs observed by parents or guardians

- | | |
|--|--|
| + 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 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 |
| + confusion | + feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy |
| + does not “feel right” | + concentration or memory problems |

III. Return to Play Progression

If an athlete is suspected of having incurred a concussion during practice or play, this policy that mirrors Virginia High School League will be followed:

1. removal from activity
2. notification of parent/guardian regarding the incident
3. doctor's release on the "HCPS Concussion Medical Evaluation Form"
4. begin a 7 stage return to play progression per school's licensed athletic trainer / doctor / nurse
5. return to full participation after completing steps 1-4 above

IV. Acknowledgement by Parents/Guardians and Student-Athletes

I have reviewed the information concerning concussion and return to play procedures.

_____	_____	_____
Student-Athlete Name PRINTED	Student-Athlete Name SIGNATURE	Date
_____	_____	_____
Parent/Guardian Name PRINTED	Parent/Guardian Name SIGNATURE	Date

It's better to miss one game than the whole season. For more information on concussions, visit:

www.cdc.gov/Concussions