



Alpharetta Recreation and Parks Department Concussion Awareness Policy and Procedures

PURPOSE:

With the passage of HB 48 by the Georgia Legislature, new requirements to educate youth athletes and their parents on the dangers of concussions in youth athletic activities will become effective in January 2014. The Georgia Department of Public Health is referring everyone to the “Heads Up – Concussion in Youth Sports” program offered by the CDC. The following is a link to the program:
http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html.

The intent of the Concussion Awareness Policy and Procedure is to reduce the potentially serious health risk associated with sports- and activity-induced concussions and head injuries.

POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of the City of Alpharetta Recreation and Parks Department (“Department”) to educate coaches, referees, employees, instructors of at-risk activities, trainers, parents, and participants of the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with sports- and activity-induced concussions. Further, the Department requires that any participant, under the age of 18, suspected of a concussion or head injury must be removed from the activity and it is recommended that the participant be examined by a licensed health care provider. If a participant is deemed by a licensed health care provider to have sustained a concussion, Department personnel or other designated personnel (coaches, referees, instructors of at-risk activities, trainers, and parents) shall not permit the participant to return to play until he or she receives documented clearance from a licensed health care provider for a full or graduated return to play.

GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES:

1. Distribution of Policy
 - A. All persons (i.e. coaches, referees, employees, instructors, trainers, parents, and participants) associated with at-risk activities should become familiar with and have access to a copy of the Department’s Concussion Awareness Policy and Procedures.
 - B. All persons are strongly encouraged to view the “Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports” online course from the Center for Disease Control. This online course can be found at the following link: http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html
 - C. Employees will take the “Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports” online course.
 - D. The Department will provide concussion educational information to all coaches, referees, trainers, and instructors of at-risk activities.
 - E. The Department will provide concussion educational information to all youth athletes and their parent/legal guardian. The parent/legal guardian must sign an acknowledgement of receipt.
2. Suspected Concussion Procedures
 - A. Any participant exhibiting the signs, symptoms, or behaviors associated with a concussion or head injury:
 - i. Must be immediately removed from the activity; and
 - ii. May not again participate in any activity until cleared by an appropriate health care professional. Remember: **WHEN IN DOUBT SIT THEM OUT!**
 - B. The injured participant may NOT be cleared for practice or competition the same day that the sign, symptom or behavior associated with a concussion or head injury was observed.
 - C. The injured participant’s parent or legal guardian should be immediately notified of the suspected concussion or head injury so that they can be evaluated by an appropriate health care professional or licensed health care provider.
 - D. An Accident/Incident Report must be submitted to the Department within 24 hours or on the next business day following the incident.

The Department requires that any participant, under the age of 18, suspected of a concussion or head injury must be removed from the activity and it is recommended that the participant be examined by a licensed health care provider. If a participant is deemed by a licensed health care provider to have sustained a concussion, Department personnel or other designated personnel (coaches, referees, instructors of at-risk activities, trainers, and parents) shall not permit the participant to return to play until he or she receives documented clearance from a licensed health care provider for a full or graduated return to play. Participants will not be allowed to participate until this document is produced.

As used in this policy, a “licensed health care provider” is defined as a licensed physician or another licensed individual under a physician’s supervision, such as a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or certified athletic trainer who has received training in concussion evaluation and management.

The Concussion Awareness Policy and Procedures are not intended to create any liability for, or create a cause of action against the City of Alpharetta, the Department, or their officers, employees, volunteers or other designated individuals for any act or omission to act related to the removal or non-removal of a participant from a Department activity.

DEFINITION:

A concussion is a type of brain injury that is caused by a blow to the head or body that jars or shakes the brain inside the skull. It is important to note that an athlete does not have to lose consciousness to have suffered a concussion.

SIGNS OBSERVED BY OTHERS:

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment
- Forgets plays or moves
- Is unsure of game, score, opponent, or class
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Cannot recall events prior to injury
- Cannot recall events after injury

SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY PARTICIPANT:

- Headache
- Nausea
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or fuzzy vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish
- Feeling foggy or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion



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Approved by Alpharetta Recreation Commission – November 14, 2013

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONCUSSION AWARENESS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

I, _____, parent/legal guardian of, _____, understand that the intent of the City of Alpharetta Recreation and Parks Department’s (“Department”) Concussion Awareness Policy and Procedures is to reduce the potentially serious health risk associated with sports- and activity-induced concussions and head injuries through education of coaches, referees, employees, instructors of at-risk activities, trainers, parents, and participants of the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with sports- and activity-induced concussions. I understand that the Department cannot prevent concussions, and/or injuries to the head and/or body, from occurring during the course of recreation sporting events, practices, and competitions.

I further understand that the Department requires that any participant, under the age of 18, suspected of a concussion or head injury must be removed from the activity and it is recommended that the participant be examined by a licensed health care provider. If a participant is deemed by a licensed health care provider to have sustained a concussion, Department personnel or other designated personnel (volunteers, contractors, trainers, and/or parent/legal guardian) shall not permit the participant to return to play until he or she receives documented clearance from a licensed health care provider for a full or graduated return to play.

I further understand and acknowledge that the Department’s adoption of the Concussion Awareness Policy and Procedures shall not create any liability for, or create a cause of action against the City of Alpharetta, the Department, or their officers, employees, volunteers or other designated individuals for any act of omission to act related to the removal or non-removal of a participant from a Department activity.

The Georgia Department of Public Health is referring everyone to the “Heads Up – Concussion in Youth Sports” program offered by the CDC. The following is a link to the program: http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html. Additional information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/ConcussioninYouthSports/> and www.nfhslearn.com.

Parent/Legal Guardian (PRINT)

Parent/Legal Guardian (SIGNATURE)

Date



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Approved by Alpharetta Recreation Commission – November 14, 2013

VOLUNTEER/CONTRACTOR/TRAINER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONCUSSION AWARENESS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

I, _____, a volunteer/contractor/trainer affiliated with the City of Alpharetta Recreation and Parks Department (“Department”), understand that the intent of the Department’s Concussion Awareness Policy and Procedures is to reduce the potentially serious health risk associated with sports- and activity-induced concussions and head injuries through education of coaches, referees, employees, instructors of at-risk activities, trainers, parents, and participants of the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with sports- and activity-induced concussions. I understand that the Department cannot prevent concussions, and/or injuries to the head and/or body, from occurring during the course of recreation sporting events, practices, and competitions.

I further understand that the Department requires that any participant, under the age of 18, suspected of a concussion or head injury must be removed from the activity and it is recommended that the participant be examined by a licensed health care provider. If a participant is deemed by a licensed health care provider to have sustained a concussion, Department personnel or other designated personnel (volunteers, contractors, and/or trainers) shall not permit the participant to return to play until he or she receives documented clearance from a licensed health care provider for a full or graduated return to play.

I further understand and acknowledge that the Department’s adoption of the Concussion Awareness Policy and Procedures shall not create any liability for, or create a cause of action against the City of Alpharetta, the Department, or their officers, employees, volunteers or other designated individuals for any act of omission to act related to the removal or non-removal of a participant from a Department activity.

I further understand and acknowledge that as a volunteer/contractor/trainer, I must complete the free online training provided by the CDC on the recognition of concussion symptoms and injuries in youth athletes which is found at http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html. Additional information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/ConcussioninYouthSports/> and www.nfhslearn.com.

Volunteer/Contractor/Trainer Name (PRINT)

Volunteer/Contractor/Trainer (SIGNATURE)

Date



HEADS UP CONCUSSION IN YOUTH SPORTS

A Fact Sheet for PARENTS

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 symptoms yourself, seek medical attention right away.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION?

Signs Observed by Parents or Guardians

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:

- 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
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion
- Does not “feel right”

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 coach’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 helmets, padding, shin guards, and eye and mouth guards). Protective equipment should fit properly, be well maintained, and 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?

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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 brain damage, affecting your child for a lifetime.
- 3. Tell your child’s coach about any recent concussion.** Coaches should know if your child had a recent concussion in ANY sport. Your child’s coach may not know about a concussion your child received in another sport or activity unless you tell the coach.

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



ATENCIÓN CONMOCIÓN CEREBRAL EN EL DEPORTE JUVENIL

Hoja Informativa para los PADRES

¿QUÉ ES LA CONMOCIÓN CEREBRAL?

Una conmoción cerebral es una lesión en el cerebro, causada por un golpe en la cabeza o una sacudida. Incluso una pequeña conmoción o lo que parece ser un golpe o sacudida leve puede ser serio.

La conmoción cerebral no puede verse. Los signos y síntomas de una conmoción pueden aparecer inmediatamente después de la lesión o puede que no aparezcan, o se hagan visibles algunos días o meses después de haber sufrido la lesión. Si su hijo tiene los signos de una conmoción cerebral o si usted nota algún síntoma, busque atención médica de inmediato.

¿CUÁLES SON LOS SIGNOS Y SÍNTOMAS DE LA CONMOCIÓN CEREBRAL?

Signos que notan los padres y los tutores

Si su hijo ha sufrido un golpe en la cabeza o una sacudida durante un juego o una práctica, obsérvelo para determinar si tiene alguno de los siguientes signos y síntomas de una conmoción cerebral:

- Luce aturdido o fuera de control
- Se confunde con la actividad asignada
- Olvida las jugadas
- No se muestra seguro del juego, la puntuación ni de sus adversarios
- Se mueve con torpeza
- Responde con lentitud
- Pierde el conocimiento (así sea momentáneamente)
- Muestra cambios de conducta o de personalidad
- No puede recordar lo ocurrido antes de un lanzamiento o un caída
- No puede recordar lo ocurrido después de un lanzamiento o un caída

Síntomas que reporta el atleta

- Dolor o "presión" en la cabeza
- Náuseas o vómitos
- Problemas de equilibrio, mareo
- Visión doble o borrosa
- Sensibilidad a la luz y al ruido
- Se siente débil, confuso, aturdido o grogui
- Problemas de concentración o memoria
- Confusión
- No se "siente bien"

¿CÓMO AYUDAR A SU HIJO A PREVENIR UNA CONMOCIÓN CEREBRAL?

Aunque todo deporte es diferente, hay medidas que puede tomar para protegerse.

- Haga que siga las reglas impartidas por el entrenador y las reglas del deporte que practica.
- Invítelo a mantener el espíritu deportivo en todo momento.
- Haga que su hijo use el equipo protector adecuado según la actividad que realiza (como casco, almohadillas protectoras, canilleras o protector dental). El equipo de protección debe ajustarse bien, debe hacerse el mantenimiento adecuado, y el jugador debe usarlo correctamente y en todo momento.
- Aprenda a identificar los signos y síntomas de la conmoción.

¿QUÉ DEBE HACER SI CREE QUE SU HIJO HA SUFRIDO UNA CONMOCIÓN CEREBRAL?

- 1. Busque atención médica de inmediato.** Un profesional de la salud podrá determinar la seriedad de la conmoción cerebral que ha sufrido el niño y cuándo podrá regresar al juego sin riesgo alguno.
- 2. No permita que su hijo siga jugando.** Las conmociones cerebrales necesitan de un cierto tiempo para curarse. No permita que su hijo regrese al juego hasta que un profesional de la salud le haya dicho que puede hacerlo. Los niños que regresan al juego antes de lo debido - mientras el cerebro está en proceso de curación - corren un mayor riesgo de sufrir otra conmoción. Las conmociones cerebrales siguientes pueden ser muy serias. Pueden causar daño cerebral permanente que afectarán al niño de por vida.
- 3. Informe al entrenador del niño sobre cualquier conmoción cerebral que el niño haya sufrido recientemente.** Los entrenadores deben saber si el niño ha sufrido una conmoción recientemente en CUALQUIER deporte. El entrenador no necesariamente sabrá si el niño ha tenido una conmoción en otro deporte o actividad a menos que usted se lo diga.

Es preferible perderse un juego que toda la temporada.