

CITY OF ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SHEET

A 2009 act requiring the adoption of policies for the management of concussion and head injury in youth sports; amending the Revised Code of Washington 4.24.660 and adding section RCW 28A.600.190 “Zackery Lystedt Law” states, in part, the following:

Each school district's board of directors shall work in concert with the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) to develop the guidelines and other pertinent information and forms to inform and educate coaches, youth athletes, and their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury including continuing to play after concussion or head injury. On a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet shall be signed and returned by the youth athlete and the athlete's parent/legal guardian prior to the youth athlete's initiating practice or competition.

After reading this information on youth head injuries and the awareness information provided on a separate “Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Information Sheet,” please sign the “Youth Athlete/Parent/Legal Guardian Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Compliance Statement.” The signed Compliance Statement must be returned to the youth sports association or City of Anacortes and is good only for the current sports season.

Concussion Management Information

A concussion is a brain injury, and all brain injuries are serious. They are caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. They can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Even though most concussions are mild, **all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly.** In other words, even a “ding” or a bump on the head can be serious. You can’t see a concussion and most sports concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Signs and symptoms of concussion may show up right after the injury or can take hours or days to fully appear. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms or signs of concussion yourself, seek medical attention right away.

Symptoms may include one or more of the following:

- Headaches
- “Pressure in head”
- Nausea or vomiting
- Neck pain
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Blurred, double, or fuzzy vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish or slowed down
- Feeling foggy or groggy

- Drowsiness
- Change in sleep patterns
- Amnesia
- “Don’t feel right”
- Fatigue or low energy
- Sadness
- Nervousness or anxiety
- Irritability
- More emotional
- Confusion
- Concentration or memory problems (forgetting game plays)
- Repeating the same question/comment

Signs observed by teammates, parents- legal guardians, and coaches include:

- Appears dazed
- Vacant facial expression
- Confused about assignment
- Forgets plays
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily or displays lack of coordination
- Answers questions slowly
- Slurred speech
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Can’t recall events prior to hit
- Can’t recall events after hit
- Seizures or convulsions
- Any change in typical behavior or personality
- Loses consciousness

What can happen if my child keeps on playing with a concussion or returns too soon?

Athletes with the signs and symptoms of concussion should be removed from play immediately. Continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of a concussion leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury. There is an increased risk of significant damage from a concussion for a period of time after that concussion occurs, particularly if the athlete suffers another concussion before completely recovering from the first one. This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even severe brain swelling (second impact syndrome) with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes will often underreport symptoms of injuries, and concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents/legal guardians, and athletes is the key for youth athletes’ safety.

If you think your child has suffered a concussion:

Any athlete suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the game or practice immediately. No athlete may return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without medical clearance. Close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours. The “Zackery Lystedt Law” in Washington requires the consistent and uniform implementation of long and well-established return-to-play concussion guidelines that have been recommended for several years: “A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from competition at that time.” “[He or she] may not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health-care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and has received written clearance to return to play from that health care provider.” You should also inform your child’s coach if you think that your child may have a concussion. It is better to miss one game than miss the whole season so when in doubt, the athlete should sit out.

RETURN TO PARTICIPATION PROTOCOL

If the youth athlete has been diagnosed with a concussion he/she MUST follow a progressive return to participation protocol (under the supervision of an approved health care provider) before full participation is authorized.

The return to play protocol may not begin until the athlete is no longer showing signs or symptoms of concussion. Once symptom free, the athlete may begin a progressive return to play. This progression begins with light aerobic exercise only to increase the heart rate (5-10 minutes of light jog or exercise bike) and progresses each day as long as the athlete remains symptom free. If at any time symptoms return, the athlete is removed from participation.

Additional information regarding concussion management is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ConcussionInYouthSports/>.

CITY OF ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION
STUDENT/PARENT/GUARDIAN SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST AWARENESS
INFORMATION SHEET

What is sudden cardiac arrest? Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is the sudden onset of an abnormal and lethal heart rhythm, causing the heart to stop beating and the individual to collapse. SCA is the leading cause of death in the U.S. afflicting over 300,000 individuals per year.

SCA is also the leading cause of sudden death in young athletes during sports

What causes sudden cardiac arrest? SCA in young athletes is usually caused by a structural or electrical disorder of the heart. Many of these conditions are inherited (genetic) and can develop as an adolescent or young adult. SCA is more likely during exercise or physical activity, placing student-athletes with undiagnosed heart conditions at greater risk. SCA also can occur from a direct blow to the chest by a firm projectile (baseball, softball, lacrosse ball, or hockey puck) or by chest contact from another player (called “commotio cordis”).

While a heart condition may have no warning signs, some young athletes may have symptoms but neglect to tell an adult. If any of the following symptoms are present, a cardiac evaluation by a physician is recommended:

- Passing out during exercise
- Chest pain with exercise
- Excessive shortness of breath with exercise
- Palpitations (heart racing for no reason)
- Unexplained seizures
- A family member with early onset heart disease or sudden death from a heart condition before the age of 40

How to prevent and treat sudden cardiac arrest? Some heart conditions at risk for SCA can be detected by a thorough heart screening evaluation. However, all schools and teams should be prepared to respond to a cardiac emergency. Young athletes who suffer SCA are collapsed and unresponsive and may appear to have brief seizure-like activity or abnormal breathing (gasping). SCA can be effectively treated by immediate recognition, prompt CPR, and quick access to a defibrillator (AED). AEDs are safe, portable devices that read and analyze the heart rhythm and provide an electric shock (if necessary) to restore a normal heart rhythm.

Remember, to save a life: recognize SCA, call 9-1-1, begin CPR, and use an AED as soon as possible!

**YOUTH ATHLETE/PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN CONCUSSION AND SUDDEN
CARDIAC ARREST AWARENESS COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

CITY OF ANACORTES PARKS AND RECREATION

**Youth Athlete/Parent/Legal Guardian
Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Statement**

The City of Anacortes Parks and Recreation Department believes participation in athletics improves physical fitness, coordination, self-discipline, and gives youth athletes valuable opportunities to learn important social and life skills.

With this in mind it is important that we do as much as possible to create and maintain an enjoyable and safe environment. As a parent/legal guardian or youth athlete you play a vital role in protecting participants and helping them get the best from sports.

Athlete and parental education in this area is crucial which is the reason for the Concussion Management and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness information you received. Refer to it regularly.

This form must be signed annually by the parent/legal guardian and youth athlete prior to participation in athletics played on City of Anacortes premises. If you have questions regarding any of the information provided in the information sheets, please contact the City of Anacortes Parks & Recreation Department

**I HAVE RECEIVED, READ AND UNDERSTAND THE INFORMATION PRESENTED
IN THE CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT AND SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST
AWARENESS SHEETS.**

Youth Athlete Name (Printed) *Youth Athlete Name (Signed)* *Date*

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (Printed) *Parent/Legal Guardian Name (Signed)* *Date*