



## Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association Parent/ Player Concussion Information Form

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	Dizziness
Disturbed vision	Light/noise sensitivity	Sluggish
Feeling foggy	Drowsiness	Changes in sleep
Amnesia	“Don’t feel right”	Low energy
Sadness	Nervousness	Irritability
Confusion	Repeating questions	Concentration problems

### Signs observed by teammates, parents and coaches may include:

Appears dazed	Vacant facial expression
Confused about assignment	Forgets plays
Unsure of game/score etc	Clumsy
Responds slowly	Personality changes
Seizures	Behavior changes
Loss of consciousness	Uncoordinated
Can’t recall events before or after hit	

### 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 (second impact syndrome). This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes will often under report symptoms of injuries, and concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key for the student-athlete’s safety.

### If you think your child has suffered a concussion:

Any athlete even 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. You should also inform your child’s coach if you think that your child may have a concussion Remember it is better to miss one game than miss the whole season. And when in doubt, the athlete sits out.

**For current and up-to-date information from the CDC on concussions you can go to:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/index.html>

**For a current update of DIAA policies and procedures on concussions you can go to:**

<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/3298>

**For a free online video on concussions you can go to:**

<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61064/concussion-in-sports>

**All parents and players must sign the signature portion of the DIAA PPE indicating they have read and understand the above.**