



**GEORGIA INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
STUDENT / PARENT CONCUSSION AWARENESS FORM**

**DANGERS OF CONCUSSION**

Concussions at all levels of sports have received a great deal of attention and a State Law has been passed to address this issue. Adolescent athletes are particularly vulnerable to the effects of concussion. Once considered little more than a minor "ding" to the head it is now understood that a concussion has the potential to result in death, or changes in brain function (either short-term or long term). A concussion is a brain injury that results in a temporary disruption of normal brain function. A concussion occurs when the brain is violently rocked back and forth or twisted inside the skull as a result of a blow to the head or body. Continued participation in any sport following a concussion can lead to worsening concussion symptoms, as well as increased risk for further injury to the brain, and even death.

Player and parental education in this area is crucial – that is the reason for this document. Refer to it regularly. This form must be signed by a parent or guardian of each student who wishes to participate in GIAA Athletics. One copy needs to be returned to the school, and one retained at home.

**COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CONCUSSION**

- Headache, dizziness, poor balance, moves clumsily, reduced energy level / tiredness.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Blurred vision, sensitivity to light and sounds.
- Fogginess of memory, difficulty concentrating, slowed thought processes, confused about surroundings or game assignments.
- Unexplained changes in behavior and personality.
- Loss of consciousness (NOTE: This does not occur in all concussion episodes.)

**GIAA Concussion Policy:** If a Coach observes a Student-Athlete exhibit any sign, symptom, or behavior consistent with a concussion or head injury, the Coach must immediately remove that Student-Athlete from practice, conditioning, or game. The Student-Athlete may not return to practice, conditioning, or game until a Health Care Provider has determined that the Student-Athlete has not suffered a concussion. In the case where a Health Care Provider has determined that the Student-Athlete has suffered a concussion, the Student-Athlete may not resume practice, conditioning, or participation in games until medically determined capable of doing so for full or graduated return. In no circumstance may a Student-Athlete return to practice, conditioning, or a game on the same day that a concussion has been diagnosed by a Health Care Provider or cannot be ruled out

***By signing this Concussion Awareness Form, we give permission to the school to transfer this Form to all sports that this child may play. We are aware of the dangers of concussions and this signed Form will represent myself and this child during the current school year \_\_\_\_\_. This form will be stored with the Athlete's Physical Form and any other accompanying forms required by the Georgia Independent Athletic Association (GIAA).***

**WE HAVE READ THIS FORM AND UNDERSTAND THE FACTS REPRESENTED IN IT.**

SCHOOL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(PRINTED)

PARENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PARENT'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(PRINTED)

DATE SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_