

Signs and Symptoms of Worsening Brain Injury

A student should receive immediate medical attention for the following dangerous symptoms of a concussion. These include any of the following:

Loss of Consciousness

Vomiting

Confusion

Convulsions or seizures

One pupil is larger than the other

Difficulty recognizing people or places

Extreme drowsiness or cannot be awakened

Any weakness or numbness

Headache worsens or does not go away after 24 hours

Neck pain or tenderness

Double vision

When a student athlete shows any signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, the student shall be immediately removed from practice or competition and evaluated by the athletic trainer who will conduct sideline concussion testing. If the student-athlete requires further care, it is recommended the student be evaluated by a health care specialist with experience in the evaluation and management of concussion. Concussions can occur outside sports and are treated in the same manner, with the Health Center staff as first point of contact should the event or symptom recognition occur at school.

Boarding students who do not exhibit any signs/or symptoms of worsening head injury, after being evaluated by an athletic trainer or school medical staff, and in consultation with the school physician, may remain in the dormitory overnight or in the Health Center as deemed necessary and appropriate. The student must be seen by the school physician or by their PCP or specialist the following day. If allowed to stay in the dorm, students will be informed of the signs and symptoms of worsening brain injury and will be advised to contact the Health Center medical staff on-call, dorm parent and/or EMS if conditions warrant during the overnight.

A student athlete diagnosed with a concussion shall be withheld from the competition or practice and not return to activity for the remainder of that day. Students will not return to class until they are evaluated by the school physician.

Parents/Guardian should be notified at once. Daily symptom check list shall be completed in the Health Center. Students must visit the health office daily to have this completed.

Return to play will follow a medically supervised stepwise process which should be initiated by the treating physician/provider or concussion specialist in communication with the athletic training staff.