

**Louisiana High School Athletic Association  
Parent and Student-Athlete Concussion Statement**

- I understand that it is my responsibility to report all injuries and illnesses to my coach, athletic trainer and/or team physician.
- I have read and understand the Concussion Fact Sheet.

After reading the Concussion Fact Sheet, I am aware of the following information:

Parent Initial	Student Initial	
_____	_____	A concussion is a brain injury, which I am responsible for reporting to my coach , athletic trainer, or team physician.
_____	_____	A concussion can affect my ability to perform everyday activities, and affect reaction time, balance, sleep, and classroom performance
_____	_____	You cannot see a concussion, but you might notice some of the symptoms right away. Other symptoms can show up hours or days after the injury.
_____	_____	If I suspect a teammate has a concussion, I am responsible for reporting the injury to my coach, athletic trainer, or team physician.
_____	_____	I will not return to play in a game or practice if I have received a blow to the head or body that results in concussion-related symptoms.
_____	_____	Following concussion the brain needs time to heal. You are much more likely to have a repeat concussion if you return to play before your symptoms resolve.
_____	_____	In rare cases, repeat concussions can cause permanent brain damage, and even death.

_____	_____
Signature of Student-Athlete	Date
_____	
Printed name of Student-Athlete	
_____	_____
Signature of Parent/Guardian	Date
_____	
Printed name of Parent/Guardian	



# A FACT SHEET FOR High School Athletes



This sheet has information to help you protect yourself from concussion or other serious brain injury and know what to do if a concussion occurs.

## WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury that affects how your brain works. It can happen when your brain gets bounced around in your skull after a fall or hit to the head.

## What Should I Do If I Think I Have a Concussion?



**Report It.** Tell your coach, parent, and athletic trainer if you think you or one of your teammates may have a concussion. It's up to you to report your symptoms. Your coach and team are relying on you. Plus, you won't play your best if you are not feeling well.

**Get Checked Out.** If you think you have a concussion, do not return to play on the day of the injury. Only a healthcare provider can tell whether you have a concussion and when it is OK to return to school and play. The sooner you get checked out, the sooner you may be able to safely return to play.



**Give Your Brain Time to Heal.** A concussion can make everyday activities, such as going to school, harder. You may need extra help getting back to your normal activities. Be sure to update your parents and doctor about how you are feeling.

## Why Should I Tell My Coach and Parent About My Symptoms?



- Playing or practicing with a concussion is dangerous and can lead to a longer recovery.
- While your brain is still healing, you are much more likely to have another concussion. This can put you at risk for a more serious injury to your brain and can even be fatal.

**GOOD TEAMMATES KNOW:  
IT'S BETTER TO MISS ONE GAME THAN THE WHOLE SEASON.**



[cdc.gov/HEADSUP](https://cdc.gov/HEADSUP)

## How Can I Tell If I Have a Concussion?

You may have a concussion if you have any of these symptoms after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body:

-  ..... **Get a headache**
-  ..... **Feel dizzy, sluggish, or foggy**
-  ..... **Are bothered by light or noise**
-  ..... **Have double or blurry vision**
-  ..... **Vomit or feel sick to your stomach**
-  ..... **Have trouble focusing or problems remembering**
-  ..... **Feel more emotional or “down”**
-  ..... **Feel confused**
-  ..... **Have problems with sleep**

Concussion symptoms usually show up right away, but you might not notice that something “isn’t right” for hours or days. A concussion feels different to each person, so it is important to tell your parents and doctor how you are feeling.

## How Can I Help My Team?



### **Protect Your Brain.**

Avoid hits to the head and follow the rules for safe and fair play to lower your chances of getting a concussion. Ask your coaches for more tips.



### **Be a Team Player.**

You play an important role as part of a team. Encourage your teammates to report their symptoms and help them feel comfortable taking the time they need to get better.

The information provided in this document or through linkages to other sites is not a substitute for medical or professional care. Questions about diagnosis and treatment for concussion should be directed to a physician or other healthcare provider.

Revised January 2019

To learn more,  
go to [cdc.gov/HEADSUP](https://www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP)



# A FACT SHEET FOR Parents



## What is a concussion?

A concussion is a type of brain injury that changes the way the brain normally works. A concussion is caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head. Concussions can also occur from a blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move rapidly back and forth. Even what seems to be a mild bump to the head can be serious. Concussions can have a more serious effect on a young, developing brain and need to be addressed correctly.

## What are the signs and symptoms of a concussion?

You can't see a concussion. Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after an injury or may not appear or be noticed until hours or days after the injury. It is important to watch for changes in how your child or teen is acting or feeling, if symptoms are getting worse, or if s/he just "doesn't feel right." Most concussions occur without loss of consciousness.

If your child or teen reports one or more of the symptoms of concussion listed below, or if you notice the signs or symptoms yourself, seek medical attention right away. Children and teens are among those at greatest risk for concussion.

## Signs & Symptoms of a Concussion

### Signs Observed by Parents or Guardians

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about events
- Answers questions slowly
- Repeats questions
- Can't recall events *prior* to hit, bump, or fall
- Can't recall events *after* hit, bump, or fall
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Forgets class schedule or assignments

### Symptoms Reported by Your Child or Teen

#### Thinking/Remembering

- Difficulty thinking clearly
- Difficulty concentrating or remembering
- Feeling more slowed down
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy

#### Physical

- Headache or "pressure" in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Fatigue or feeling tired
- Blurry or double vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Numbness or tingling
- Does not "feel right"

#### Emotional

- Irritable
- Sad
- More emotional than usual
- Nervous

#### Sleep\*

- Drowsy
- Sleeps *less* than usual
- Sleeps *more* than usual

*\*Only ask about sleep symptoms if the injury occurred on a prior day.*

To download this fact sheet in Spanish, please visit: [www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP](http://www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP). Para obtener una copia electrónica de esta hoja de información en español, por favor visite: [www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP](http://www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP)  
January 2021



# Danger Signs

**Be alert for symptoms that worsen over time. Your child or teen should be seen in an emergency department right away if she or he has one or more of these danger signs:**

- One pupil (the black part in the middle of the eye) larger than the other
- Drowsiness or cannot be awakened
- A headache that gets worse and does not go away
- Weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- Slurred speech
- Convulsions or seizures
- Difficulty recognizing people or places
- Increasing confusion, restlessness, or agitation
- Unusual behavior
- Loss of consciousness (even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously)

**Children and teens with a suspected concussion should NEVER return to sports or recreation activities on the same day the injury occurred.**

They should delay returning to their activities until a healthcare provider experienced in evaluating for concussion says it's OK to return to play. This means, until permitted, not returning to:

- Physical Education (PE) class
- Sports practices or games
- Physical activity at recess

## ➤ What should I do if my child or teen has a concussion?

### 1. Seek medical attention right away.

A healthcare provider experienced in evaluating for concussion can determine how serious the concussion is and when it is safe for your child or teen to return to normal activities, including physical activity and school (concentration and learning activities).

### 2. Help them take time to get better.

If your child or teen has a concussion, her or his brain needs time to heal. Your child or teen may need to limit activities while s/he is recovering from a concussion. Exercising or activities that involve a lot of concentration, such as studying, working on the computer, or playing video games may cause concussion symptoms (such as headache or tiredness) to reappear or get worse. After a concussion, physical and cognitive activities—such as concentration and learning—should be carefully managed and monitored by a healthcare provider.

### 3. Talk to your child or teen about how they are feeling.

Your child may feel frustrated, sad, and even angry because s/he cannot return to recreation and sports right away, or cannot keep up with schoolwork. Your child may also feel isolated from peers and social networks. Talk often with your child about these issues and offer your support and encouragement.

To learn more, go to [www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP](http://www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP) or call 1.800.CDC.INFO

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## ➤ How can I help my child return to school safely after a concussion?

Most children can return to school within a few days. Help your child or teen get needed support when returning to school after a concussion. Talk with your child's teachers, school nurse, coach, speech-language pathologist, or counselor about your child's concussion and symptoms.

Your child's or teen's healthcare provider can use CDC's Letter to Schools to provide strategies to help the school set up any needed supports.

As your child's symptoms decrease, the extra help or support can be removed gradually. Children and teens who return to school after a concussion may need to:

- Take rest breaks as needed
- Spend fewer hours at school
- Be given more time to take tests or complete assignments
- Receive help with schoolwork
- Reduce time spent reading, writing, or on the computer
- Sit out of physical activities, such as recess, PE, and sports until approved by a healthcare provider
- Complete fewer assignments
- Avoid noisy and over-stimulating environments



**Louisiana High School Athletic Association**  
**Student-Athlete and Parent Concussion Statement**

After reading the CDC Heads Up Concussion Fact Sheets and reviewing the LHSAA Concussion Management Protocol, I am aware of the following information:

Athlete Initial:		Parent Initial:	
			A concussion is a brain injury which I am responsible for reporting to my coach, athletic trainer, or health care provider.
			A concussion can affect my ability to perform everyday activities, and affect reaction time, balance, sleep, and classroom performance. You cannot always see a concussion, but you might notice some of the symptoms right away. Other symptoms can show up hours or days after the injury.
			Athletes shall not return to play in a game or practice on the same day that they are suspected of having a concussion.
			Athletes diagnosed with a concussion must be assessed by a health care provider. Athletes will begin a graduated return to play protocol following full recovery of neurocognition and balance.
			Concussed athletes are much more likely to experience complications if they return to play before symptoms resolve including but not limited to permanent brain damage or even death.

I commit to the following:

Athlete Initial:		Parent Initial:	
			I will report all injuries and illnesses to my coach, athletic trainer and/or health care provider.
			I will not return to play in a game or practice if I have received a blow to the head or body that results in concussion-related symptoms.
			If I suspect a teammate has a concussion, I will report the injury to my coach, athletic trainer, or team health care provider.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student-Athlete

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Student-Athlete

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Parent/Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

This form must be kept on record with the school.

# Important Information about Sudden Cardiac Arrest for Parents and Student Athletes

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*Starting August 1, 2024, Louisiana Law [Act 421 (R.S. 17:440.3)] requires schools to inform parents and student athletes about heart health. Schools must provide written information about the requirements a student athlete who has or has had a heart-related issue must meet before participating in sports. This information must be given to parents and guardians, and they must sign to show they have received and understood it. This ensures proper communication and safety measures are in place for student athletes returning to play.*

## What is Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA)?

Sudden Cardiac Arrest is the sudden loss of all heart activity (i.e. the heart stops beating). This stops blood flow to the body's organs. It usually occurs because of an abnormal heart rhythm called ventricular fibrillation. If CPR is not started quickly, SCA can lead to death within minutes.

## Warning Signs and Symptoms of SCA

- Sudden collapse;
- No pulse;
- No breathing;
- Loss of consciousness

Sometimes other symptoms occur before sudden cardiac arrest. These might include:

- Chest discomfort.
- Shortness of breath.
- Weakness.
- Fast-beating, fluttering or pounding heart; called palpitations.

*But sudden cardiac arrest often occurs with no warning. **If any of these symptoms occur during exercise, the student athlete should STOP PLAY AND SEE A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER immediately.***

## Possible Causes of SCA:

- *Structural heart defects, like congenital heart diseases or Marfan syndrome;*

- *Problems with the heart's electrical system (which can make the heart beat too fast, too slow, or irregularly);*
- *Diseases affecting the heart muscle: (such as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy);*
- Heart infections; and
- *Other factors, such as direct impact to the chest.*

### **Additional Risk Factors:**

- *Family history:* Sudden death of a close relative before age 50; history of heart conditions like cardiomyopathy, Marfan syndrome, Long QT syndrome, or heart rhythm problems; and/or history of immediate family members experiencing SCA.
- Heart murmurs
- High blood pressure

### **Requirements for Return to Play:**

If a student athlete has experienced SCA or any of its warning signs, a consultation with a health care provider is necessary. To return to play, the athlete must provide:

- Written clearance from a doctor; AND
- Acknowledgment form signed by the parent or guardian and the student athlete.

### **More information:**

More information may be found at Parent Heart Watch (<https://parentheartwatch.org/>)

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# SCA Information: Parent/Guardian and Student Athlete Acknowledgement Form

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*Starting August 1, 2024, Louisiana Law [Act 421 (R.S. 17:440.3)] requires schools to inform parents and student athletes about heart health. Schools must provide written information about the requirements a student athlete who has or has had a heart-related issue must meet before participating in sports. This information must be given to parents and guardians, and they must sign to show they have received and understood it. This ensures proper communication and safety measures are in place for student athletes returning to play.*

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Acknowledgment Form: (Please return this signed form to the school administration.)

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received and understood the information regarding Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) and the requirements for my child to return to play after experiencing any related health issues.

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Athlete Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Athlete Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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