

## Vashon Lacrosse Club Concussion 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. A concussion 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
- Feeling of 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
- Sense of ‘not feeling right’
- Fatigue or low energy
- Sadness
- Nervousness or anxiety
- Irritability
- More emotional
- Confusion
- Concentration or memory problems
- Repetition of questions/comments

**Signs observed by teammates, parents and coaches include:**

- Appears dazed
- Vacant facial expression
- Confused about assignment
- Forgets game plays
- Unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Clumsy/lack of coordination
- Answers questions slowly
- Slurred speech
- Can’t recall events prior to hit
- Can’t recall events after hit
- Seizures or convulsions
- Change in behavior/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 to severe brain swelling (second impact syndrome) 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 to student athletes' 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. The new "Zackery Lystedt Law" in Washington now 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"

and

"...may not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussion and 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. Remember that it is better to miss one game than miss the whole season. And when in doubt, the athlete sits out.

Up-to-date information on concussions can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ConcussionInYouthSports/>

**This is to certify that I have read and understand this concussion information provided by Vashon Lacrosse Club. This form must be on file with VLC before an athlete may begin practice.**

Student-athlete Name Printed	Student-athlete Signature	Date
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Parent or Legal Guardian Printed	Parent or Legal Guardian Signature	Date
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