

## CONCUSSION/HEAD INJURY FACT SHEET

### WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

- A concussion is a brain injury
- Is caused by a bump or blow to the head
- Can change the way your brain normally works
- Can occur during practice or games in any sport
- Can happen even if you have not been knocked out
- Can be serious even if you have just been “dinged”

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION?

- Headache or “pressure” in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion
- Does not “feel right”

### WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OBSERVED BY PARENTS/GUARDIANS?

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction
- Is unsure of game, score or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Cannot recall events prior to hit or fall
- Cannot recall events after hit or fall

### WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK I HAVE A CONCUSSION?

- Tell your coaches or parents. Never ignore a bump or blow to the head even if you feel fine. Also, tell your coach if one of your teammates may have a concussion.
- Get a medical checkup. A doctor or health care professional can tell you if you have a concussion and when you are OK to return to play.
- Give yourself time to get better. If you have had a concussion, your brain needs time to heal. While your brain is still healing, you are much more likely to have a second concussion. Additional concussions can cause damage to your brain. It is important to rest until you get approval from a doctor or health care professional to return to play.

### HOW CAN I PREVENT A CONCUSSION?

- Follow your coach’s rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
- Practice good sportsmanship.
- Use the proper equipment, including personal protective equipment (such as helmets, padding, shin guards and eye and mouth guards)—**IN ORDER FOR EQUIPMENT TO PROTECT YOU**, it must be the right equipment for the game, position and activity; it must be worn correctly and used every time you play.)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

- [www.cdc.gov/TraumaticBraininjury/](http://www.cdc.gov/TraumaticBraininjury/)
- [www.oata.net](http://www.oata.net)
- [www.ossaa.com](http://www.ossaa.com)
- [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com)