

Policy # 552- Return to play post brain injury (concussion)

APPROVED: October 23, 2017	REVIEWED: October, 2017
NEXT REVIEW:	October, 2018
RESPONSIBILITY:	All members of GPMHA
APPENDICES:	
CROSS-REFERENCE: 530 Privacy Policy. 551 Injury, Complete Concussion Management System, Hockey Canada Return to play	

POLICY STATEMENT:

No player shall be permitted to return to games or practices until cleared by a medical professional(s). Accredited Post Brain injury rehabilitation programs/protocols must be presented to GPMHA, and be followed by the injured person and the team they are associated with.

PURPOSE:

To ensure we are protecting the members of GPMHA and encouraging complete rehabilitation from brain injuries prior to resuming team functions, practice and full pace play.

SCOPE:

All members and staff within GPMHA

DEFINITIONS: a brain injury occurs when an external mechanical force causes brain dysfunction. Traumatic brain injury usually results from a violent blow or jolt to the head or body (Mayo Clinic)

PROCEDURE/GUIDELINES:

Advise the GPMHA office of any brain injuries sustained immediately. Provide completed injury reports in a timely manner. Ensure that an injury report form is sent with an injured player if they go to the hospital.

All members who sustain a brain injury and are part of a GPMHA must disclose such injury on Team medical forms at the start of each season. This includes any head injuries suffered outside of the GPMHA.

Members in the Development stream are required to enroll in a Base Line Testing program while the members in the Fundamental and Recreation streams are encouraged to participate. When a potential concussion has occurred, the team Trainer is the first point of contact with the injured player. The Trainer will evaluate the player in question, using appropriate protocols and will make a determination based on their assessment of the player. If the Trainer determines that the player may be concussed or is showing symptoms of a possible concussion then they **WILL** deem that player unfit to play until assessed by a Physician.

No player can return to play until the attending Physician has given the player clearance to do so in writing.

The Trainer's decision is final and cannot be overturned by the Coaching staff or the Parents until the above mentioned criteria have been met.

The return to play process is gradual, and begins after a Physician has given the player clearance to return to activity. If any symptoms/signs return during this process, the player must be re-evaluated by a physician. No return to play if any symptoms or signs persist. Remember, symptoms may return later that day or the next, not necessarily when exercising!