



RETURN TO PLAY POLICY

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Rev.	0
Originator:	D. Hawkins
Checker	I. Toellner
Approver:	C. Craig
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Big Country Soccer Association believes in the health and safety of all players involved in the sport of soccer. As such, Big Country Soccer Association recognizes and aligns a concussion awareness process that aligns with Canada Soccer's Concussion Policy. A player who has sustained a concussion, if not treated properly, can lead to secondary medical issues resulting in a long recovery process.

What is a Concussion?

A concussion is a traumatic brain injury caused by a hit or jolt to the head or body. This movement can cause the brain to impact the inside of the skull and trigger swelling on parts of the brain. The swelling and pressure can affect brain function (*Ref: Concussion Information from Respect in Sports*).

Policy

Big Country Soccer Association is committed to ensuring players, with their parent(s) and/ or guardian(s) are provided access to this policy and information on the signs and symptoms of concussions. It is the responsibility of the players, with their parent(s) and/ or guardian(s), to report to their associated member's association concussion-related injuries and illnesses and seek an assessment by an independent medical professional with experience in the evaluation and management of concussions.

If a player is observed showing signs and symptoms of a possible concussion related injury and/ or illness, the player will be removed from the soccer activity (e.g., competitions, practices, or physical conditioning sessions) immediately and the parent(s) and/ or guardian(s) will be notified through their emergency contact, if not already in attendance to the soccer activity. Once removed from the activity, the player is to be assessed immediately by an independent medical professional with experience in the evaluation and management of concussions.

Standard

Note the following actions in support of this policy:

1. After an incident, should a player lose consciousness, medical assistance will be contacted immediately.
2. Once a player has been removed from a soccer activity, the coach for the team is to complete the "Suspected Concussion Report" (*Ref: BCSA-FORM-005*) and provide the report to the parent(s) and/ or guardian(s). A copy of the report is to be submitted to the participants' Association Board.
3. If the medical assessment has determined the player does have a concussion, the "Return-to Sport Protocol Tracking Form" (*Ref: BCSA-FORM-004*) will be completed in the stages as confirmed by the independent medical professional with experience in the evaluation and management of concussions.
4. Once a player has completed the return to sport requirements, a final medical release is required that permits the player to return to sport. No player will be permitted to return to soccer until such time and medical clearance has been provided to the participants' Association Board. This is for the protection of the player from sustaining any further injury/ illness as it relates to the initial concussion.



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Reference

Canada Soccer Concussion Policy

Big Country Soccer Association Concussion Policy (*Ref: BCSA-POL-005*)

Big Country Soccer Association Remove-From-Sport Protocol Summary (*Ref: BCSA-FORM-003*)

Big Country Soccer Association Return-to-Sport Protocol Tracking Report (*Ref: BCSA-FORM-004*)

Big Country Soccer Association Suspected Concussion Report (*Ref: BCSA-FORM-005*)