

Appendix

CONCUSSION RECOGNITION TOOL 5©

To help identify concussion in children, adolescents and adults

RECOGNISE & REMOVE

Head impacts can be associated with serious and potentially fatal brain injuries. The Concussion Recognition Tool 5 (CRT5) is to be used for the identification of suspected concussion. It is not designed to diagnose concussion.

STEP 1: RED FLAGS — CALL AN AMBULANCE

If there is concern after an injury including whether ANY of the following signs are observed or complaints are reported then the player should be safely and immediately removed from play/game/activity. If no licensed healthcare professional is available, call an ambulance for urgent medical assessment:

- Neck pain or tenderness
- Severe or increasing headache
- Deteriorating conscious state
- Weakness or tingling/burning in arms or legs
- Seizure or convulsion
- Vomiting
- Increasingly restless, agitated or combative
- Loss of consciousness

Remember:

- In all cases, the basic principles of first aid (danger, response, airway, breathing, circulation) should be followed.
- Assessment for a spinal cord injury is critical.
- Do not attempt to move the player (other than required for airway support) unless trained to do so.
- Do not remove a helmet or any other equipment unless trained to do so safely.

If there are no Red Flags, identification of possible concussion should proceed to the following steps:

STEP 2: OBSERVABLE SIGNS

Visual clues that suggest possible concussion include:

- Lying motionless on the playing surface
- Disorientation or confusion, or an inability to respond appropriately to questions
- Balance, gait difficulties, motor incoordination, stumbling, slow laboured movements
- Slow to get up after a direct or indirect hit to the head
- Blank or vacant look
- Facial injury after head trauma

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STEP 3: SYMPTOMS

- Headache
- Sensitivity to light
- Nervous or anxious
- "Pressure in head"
- Sensitivity to noise
- Neck Pain
- Balance problems
- Fatigue or low energy
- Difficulty concentrating
- Nausea or vomiting
- "Don't feel right"
- Difficulty remembering
- Drowsiness
- More emotional
- Feeling slowed down
- Dizziness
- More irritable
- Feeling like "in a fog"
- Blurred vision
- Sadness

STEP 4: MEMORY ASSESSMENT

(In Athletes older than 12 years)

Failure to answer any of these questions (modified appropriately for each sport) correctly may suggest a concussion:

- "What venue are we at today?"
- "What team did you play last week/game?"
- "Which half is it now?"
- "Did your team win the last game?"
- "Who scored last in this game?"

Athletes with suspected concussion should:

- Not be left alone initially (at least for the first 1-2 hours)
- Not drink alcohol.
- Not use recreational/ prescription drugs.
- Not be sent home by themselves. They need to be with a responsible adult.
- Not drive a motor vehicle until cleared to do so by a healthcare professional.

ANY ATHLETE WITH A SUSPECTED CONCUSSION SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM PRACTICE OR PLAY AND SHOULD NOT RETURN TO ACTIVITY UNTIL ASSESSED MEDICALLY, EVEN IF THE SYMPTOMS RESOLVE