



# **CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Athletic and Equine Teams  
Black Hawk College

Updated June 2020

# Black Hawk College – Concussion Management Plan

## Table of Contents

PURPOSE .....	3
CONCUSSION OVERVIEW .....	4
PRE-SEASON EDUCATION .....	5
PRE-PARTICIPATION .....	5
RECOGNITION AND DIAGNOSIS OF CONCUSSION .....	5
RETURN TO LEARN .....	6
RETURN TO PLAY .....	7
REDUCING EXPOSURE TO HEAD TRAUMA.....	7
APPENDIX A – CONCUSSION FACT SHEET FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES .....	8
APPENDIX B – CONCUSSION FACT SHEET FOR COACHES .....	10
APPENDIX C – ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM.....	14
APPENDIX D – GENESIS HEALTH SYSTEM CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT PLAN.....	16
RESOURCES .....	17
ENDNOTES.....	17

## PURPOSE

At Black Hawk College we are committed to promoting a “safety first” culture when it comes to our student-athletes. Consistent with this philosophy, and in keeping with the requirements of the NJCAA Member Handbook (*Article 1, Section 3, subparagraph E2*), Black Hawk College has developed the following Concussion Management Plan for all student-athletes, regardless of the sport in which the student-athlete participates.

The Black Hawk College Concussion Management Plan strives to provide sufficient education to help these constituents better recognize and understand concussions.

The overriding goals of Black Hawk College’s Concussion Management Plan are:

- a) **Education:** Raise awareness of the signs, symptoms and seriousness of concussions to all those involved – both directly and indirectly – with the sport (student-athletes, parents, and coaches);
- b) **Pre-participation assessment:** Require a one-time, pre-participation assessment of all student-athletes, to include concussion history, symptom evaluation, cognitive assessment, and balance evaluation;
- c) **Recognition:** Promote prompt and effective responses to concussed student-athletes, assuring they are receiving effective care and management of the concussion.
- d) **Post-concussion management:** Promote healthy and effective concussion treatment to mitigate recovery time with the ultimate goal of safely and effectively restoring the student-athlete to the classroom and the playing field.

## CONCUSSION OVERVIEW

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or by a hit to the body that causes the head and brain to move rapidly back and forth. This sudden movement can cause the brain to bounce around or twist in the skull, stretching and damaging the brain cells and creating chemical changes in the brain. Medical providers may describe a concussion as a “mild” brain injury because concussions are usually not life threatening. Even so, the effects of a concussion can be serious.<sup>1</sup>

### Signs and Symptoms of Concussion

Physical	Cognitive	Emotional	Sleep
Headache	Feeling mentally “foggy”	Irritability	Drowsiness
Nausea or vomiting	Feeling sluggish or slowed down	Feelings of depression	Sleeping more than usual
Blurred or double vision	Difficulty concentrating	Angers easily	Sleeping less than usual
Balance problems	Difficulty remembering, forgetfulness	Nervous	Difficulty falling asleep
Fatigue	Forgetful of recent information and conversations	Restlessness	
Sensitivity to noise and/or light	Confused about recent events	Easily frustrated	
Numbness/tingling	Answers questions slowly	Sadness	
Dazed		Impatience	
Stunned			
Dizziness or imbalance			

(sources: Genesis Health System, Concussion Management Program and 2014-15 NCAA Sports Medicine Handbook)

### WHAT ARE SOME MORE SERIOUS DANGER SIGNS TO LOOK FOR?

In rare cases, a dangerous collection of blood (hematoma) may form on the brain after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body and can squeeze the brain against the skull. Call 9-1-1 or ensure an athlete is taken to the emergency department right away if, after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body, he or she has one or more of these danger signs:

- ✓ One pupil larger than the other.
- ✓ Drowsiness or inability to wake up.
- ✓ A headache that gets worse and does not go away.
- ✓ Slurred speech, weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination.
- ✓ Repeated vomiting or nausea, convulsions or seizures (shaking or twitching).
- ✓ Unusual behavior, increased confusion, restlessness, or agitation.
- ✓ Loss of consciousness (passed out/knocked out). Even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously.

## PRE-SEASON EDUCATION

All Black Hawk College first-year and returning student-athletes are provided a hard-copy and/or online web-links to the Black Hawk College Concussion Management Plan. All student-athletes are required to read this Concussion Management Plan and understand the Concussion Fact-Sheet for student-athletes. Refer to Appendix A.

Participating student-athletes for all sports will be required to attend an information session covering the information contained in the Concussion Management Plan and in the Student-Athlete Fact-Sheet. These information sessions will be administered annually by Risk Management for every student-athlete, regardless of sport.

In addition, all student-athletes (and their parents, if the student-athlete is under 18-years of age) will be required to sign the Risk of Concussion or Other Head Injury Acknowledgement Form. Refer to Appendix C.

Annually all Black Hawk College coaches and athletic staff shall complete the Concussion Management Program training and review the Concussion Information Sheet for Coaches. Refer to Appendix B. As part of their training they will:

- Acknowledge they understand the material
- Encourage student-athletes to report their symptoms of concussion
- Refer student-athletes for medical care if a concussion is suspected

## PRE-PARTICIPATION

Prior to participation in intercollegiate competition, all first-year student-athletes will complete a baseline evaluation. The evaluation will include a web-based neurocognitive brain function baseline testing, a self-reported history, a balance evaluation, and post-concussion symptom rating scales. This assessment is used to establish an individual's "normal" neurocognitive baseline so health professionals have a reference point they can use to measure an athlete's function post-injury. Student-athletes may complete the baseline evaluation through Black Hawk College's athletic training provider at no additional cost to the student-athlete.

Student-athletes will be allowed to practice without the pre-participation baseline evaluation, however it is expected the student-athlete baseline evaluation will be completed within the first week of practice. Under no circumstances will student-athletes be allowed to compete without the baseline evaluation.

Returning student-athletes who had a subsequent concussion (whether incurred through their sport or otherwise) will need to again be baseline tested prior to the start of his/her sport.

## RECOGNITION AND DIAGNOSIS OF CONCUSSION

Student-athletes who exhibit signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be removed from practice/competition immediately and evaluated by either the team athletic trainer or other qualified medical provider trained in concussion injuries. Any student-athlete with a suspicion of concussion shall be excluded from all athletic activity for the remainder of the day. If the student-athlete is competing at another location, then host-site medical personnel should be contacted for evaluation.

## RETURN TO LEARN <sup>2</sup>

Return to academics (return to learn) is a parallel concept to return-to-play. Return-to-learn guidelines assume that both physical and cognitive activities require brain energy utilization, and that after a sport-related concussion, brain energy may not be available for physical and cognitive exertion because of a brain energy crisis. Return-to-learn should be managed in a stepwise program that fits the needs of the individual. Like return-to-play, it is difficult to provide prescriptive recommendations for return-to-learn. The student-athlete may appear physically normal but may be unable to perform as expected due to concussive symptomatology.

### *Return-to-Learn Stepwise Progression:*

The first step of return-to-learn is relative physical and cognitive rest. Relative cognitive rest involves minimizing potential cognitive stressors, such as schoolwork, video games, reading, texting, driving and watching television. Data from small studies suggest a beneficial effect of cognitive rest on concussion recovery. For the college student-athlete, consideration should be given to avoiding the classroom for at least the same day as the sport-related concussion. The period of time needed to avoid class or homework should be individualized. The gradual return to academics should be based on the absence of concussive symptoms following cognitive exposure. The consensus to date includes:

- 1) If the student-athlete cannot tolerate light cognitive activity, he/she should remain at home (away from the classroom).
- 2) Once the student-athlete can tolerate cognitive activity without return of symptoms, he/she should return to the classroom, often in graduated increments.
- 3) The student-athlete will require a release from the treating physician stating he/she can return to the classroom. These releases should be submitted to Black Hawk College's Risk Management department.

At any point, if the student-athlete becomes symptomatic (i.e., more symptomatic than baseline), the student-athlete's treating physician should be notified and the student-athlete's cognitive activity reassessed.

The majority of student-athletes who are concussed will not need a detailed return-to-learn program because full recovery typically occurs within two-weeks. For the student-athlete whose academic schedule requires some minor modification in the first one- to two-weeks following a sport-related concussion, adjustments can often be made without requiring meaningful curriculum or testing alterations.

For those student-athletes whose symptoms persist for longer than two-weeks, there are differing ways to assess academic adjustment or accommodations. The student-athlete may need a change in his/her class schedule; special arrangements may be required for extended absences for tests and other related class requirements. The student-athlete may need to work out an individualized plan through his/her instructors, which would assist the concussed student-athlete to progress from cognitive rest to gradual return to the classroom/studying. If the student-athlete reports worsening symptoms with academic activity, the physician will need to reevaluate.

If the student-athlete's condition is severe enough to qualify as a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and subsequently requires extended periods away from the classroom, the student-athlete may wish to seek the assistance of Black Hawk College's Disability Services department (see: <http://www.bhc.edu/student-resources/disability/>).

## RETURN TO PLAY <sup>3</sup>

Return-to-play presents a standardized series of steps to ensure the safe return of a recovering concussed student-athlete. The initial management of sport-related concussion is relative physical and cognitive rest. Athletes diagnosed with sport-related concussion must be removed from play, must not return to sport-related activity for at least one calendar day, and are expected to be evaluated by a health care provider with expertise in sport-related concussion. Once a concussed student-athlete has returned to baseline level of symptoms, cognitive function and balance, then the return-to-play progression can be initiated.

The basic return-to-play protocol is outlined as follows. **Note:** *Each step takes a minimum of 24-hours before progression to the next step:*

- 1) Complete physical and cognitive rest. No exertion until symptoms stop.
- 2) Return to full cognitive demands (work, school, bills, etc.)
- 3) Low impact, light aerobic exercise; no weight training or resistance training.
- 4) Basic exercise, including running and other high impact activities.
- 5) Weight-training can begin; full return to physical demands.
- 6) Following medical clearance, return to full-level of activities (“return-to-play”). Medical clearance will be determined by the treating physician.\*

*\* A signed release from the treating physician must be turned into BHC Risk Management prior to the student-athlete being allowed to participate in his/her sport.*

At any point, if the student-athlete becomes symptomatic (i.e., more symptomatic than baseline), or scores on clinical/cognitive measures decline, the medical provider should be notified and the student-athlete should be returned to the previous level of activity. Final determination of return-to-play ultimately resides with the treating physician.

For additional information, please refer to Appendix D for the Genesis Health System Concussion Management Plan overview.

## REDUCING EXPOSURE TO HEAD TRAUMA

While “reducing” may be difficult to quantify, BHC will emphasize ways to minimize head trauma exposure through education of both student-athletes and coaches. Student-athletes will be taught and practice the ‘safety first’ approach. Some examples of minimizing head-trauma exposure include:

- Taking a “safety first” approach to sport.
- Taking the head out of contact.
- Coach and student-athlete education regarding safe play and proper technique.
- Making sure the athlete is wearing the correct protective equipment for their activity. It should fit properly, be well maintained, and be worn consistently and correctly.

## APPENDIX A – CONCUSSION FACT SHEET FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

### CONCUSSION INFORMATION SHEET – For Student Athletes

#### WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury that:

- ✓ Is caused by a blow to the head or body
  - From contact with another player, hitting a hard surface such as the ground, ice or floor, or being hit by a piece of equipment, such as a bat, a basketball, or soccer ball.
- ✓ Can change the way your brain normally works
- ✓ Can range from mild to severe
- ✓ Presents itself differently for each athlete
- ✓ Can occur during practice or competition in ANY sport
- ✓ Can happen even if you do not lose consciousness

#### HOW CAN I PREVENT A CONCUSSION?

Basic steps you can take to protect yourself from concussion:

- Do not initiate contact with your head or helmet. You can still get a concussion even if you are wearing a helmet
- Avoid striking an opponent in the head, flying elbows, and stepping on a head.
- Follow Black Hawk College's rules for safety and the rules of the sport
- Practice good sportsmanship at all times
- Practice and perfect the skills of the sport

#### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION?

You can't see a concussion, but you might notice some of the symptoms right away. Symptoms can show up hours or days after the injury.

Concussion symptoms include:

- Amnesia
- Confusion
- Headache
- Loss of consciousness
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or fuzzy vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Nausea (feeling that you might vomit)
- Feeling sluggish, foggy or groggy
- Feeling unusually irritable
- Concentration or memory problems (forgetting game plays, facts, meeting times)
- Slowed reaction time

Exercise or activities that involve a lot of concentration, such as studying, working on the computer, or playing video games may cause concussion symptoms (such as headache or tiredness) to reappear or get worse.



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

**Don't hide it.** Tell your athletic trainer and/or coach. Never ignore a blow to the head. Also, tell your athletic trainer and/or coach if one of your teammates might have a concussion. Sports have injury timeouts and player substitutions so that you can get checked out.

**Report it.** Do not return to participation in a game, practice or other activity with symptoms. The sooner you get checked out, the sooner you may be able to return to play.

**Get checked out.** Your athletic trainer or health care professional can tell you if you have had a concussion and when you are cleared to return to play. A concussion can affect your ability to perform everyday activities, your reaction time, balance, sleep and classroom performance.

**Take time to recover.** 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 repeat concussion. In rare cases, repeat concussions can cause permanent brain damage, and even death. Severe brain injury can change your whole life.

### **REMEMBER:**

***It's better to miss one game or one competition  
than the whole season.  
When in doubt, get checked out.***

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES, VISIT** [www.NCAA.org/health-safety](http://www.NCAA.org/health-safety)  
and [www.CDC.gov/Concussion](http://www.CDC.gov/Concussion)

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION AT** [www.facebook.com/CDCHEADSUP](http://www.facebook.com/CDCHEADSUP)  
**TO LEARN MORE GO TO >>** [cdc.gov/HEADSUP](http://cdc.gov/HEADSUP)

## APPENDIX B – CONCUSSION FACT SHEET FOR COACHES

### CONCUSSION INFORMATION SHEET – For Coaches

One of the main jobs of a college coach is keeping athletes safe. This sheet has information to help you protect athletes from concussion or other serious brain injury, learn how to spot a concussion, and know what to do if a concussion occurs.

### WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury—TBI— caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or by a hit to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. This fast movement can cause the brain to bounce around or twist in the skull, creating chemical changes in the brain and sometimes stretching and damaging the brain cells.

### HOW CAN I HELP KEEP ATHLETES SAFE?

Sports are a great way for students to stay healthy and can help them do well in school. As a college coach, your actions create the culture for safety and can help lower an athlete’s chance of getting a concussion or other serious injury. Aggressive and/or unsportsmanlike behavior among athletes can increase their chances of getting a concussion or other serious injury. Here are some ways you can help keep your athletes safe:

- ✓ **Talk with athletes about the importance of reporting a concussion:**
  - Talk with athletes about any concerns they might have about reporting their concussion symptoms. Make sure to tell them that safety comes first and you expect them to tell you if they think they have a concussion.
- ✓ **Create a culture of safety at games and practices:**
  - Teach athletes ways to lower the chances of getting a concussion.
  - Enforce the rules of the sport for fair play, safety, and sportsmanship.
  - Ensure athletes avoid unsafe actions such as:
    - Striking another athlete in the head;
    - Using their head or helmet to contact another athlete;
    - Making illegal contacts or tackling, or colliding with an unprotected opponent; and/or
    - Trying to injure or put another athlete at risk for injury.
  - Tell athletes that you expect good sportsmanship at all times, both on and off the playing field.
- ✓ **Keep up-to-date on concussion information:**
  - Review your state, league, and/or organization’s concussion guidelines and protocols.
  - Take a training course on concussion. (CDC offers concussion training at no cost at [www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP](http://www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP).)
  - Download CDC’s HEADS UP app or a list of concussion signs and symptoms that you can keep on hand.

### Check out the equipment and sports facilities:

- Make sure all athletes wear a helmet that fits well and is in good condition when appropriate for the sport or activity. There is no “concussion-proof” helmet, so it is important to enforce safety rules that protect athletes from hits to the head and when a helmet falls off during a play.
- Work with the game or event administrator to remove tripping hazards and ensure that equipment, such as goalposts, have padding that is in good condition.

- ✓ **Keep emergency contact information handy:**
  - Bring emergency contact information for health care providers to each game and practice in case an athlete needs to be taken to an emergency department right away for a concussion or other serious injury.
  - If first responders are called to care for an injured athlete, provide them with details about how the injury happened and how the athlete was acting after the injury.

### **HOW CAN I SPOT A POSSIBLE CONCUSSION?**

Athletes who show or report one or more of the signs and symptoms listed below—or simply say they just “don’t feel right” after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body—may have a concussion or other serious brain injury.

#### **SIGNS OBSERVED BY COACHES:**

- ✓ Appears dazed or stunned.
- ✓ Forgets an instruction, is confused about an assignment or position, or is unsure of the game, score, or opponent
- ✓ Moves clumsily.
- ✓ Answers questions slowly.
- ✓ Loss of consciousness (even briefly).
- ✓ Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes.
- ✓ Can’t recall events prior to or after a hit or fall.

#### **SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETES:**

- ✓ Headache or “pressure” in head.
- ✓ Nausea or vomiting.
- ✓ Balance problems or dizziness, or double or blurry vision.
- ✓ Bothered by light or noise.
- ✓ Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy.
- ✓ Confusion, or concentration or memory problems.
- ✓ Just not “feeling right”, or “feeling down”.

**NOTE:** Concussion signs and symptoms often show up soon after the injury, but it can be hard to tell how serious the concussion is at first. Some symptoms may not be noticed or may not show up for hours or days.

#### **WHAT ARE SOME MORE SERIOUS DANGER SIGNS TO LOOK FOR?**

In rare cases, a dangerous collection of blood (hematoma) may form on the brain after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body and can squeeze the brain against the skull. Call 9-1-1 or ensure an athlete is taken to the emergency department right away if, after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body, he or she has one or more of these danger signs:

- ✓ One pupil larger than the other.
- ✓ Drowsiness or inability to wake up.
- ✓ A headache that gets worse and does not go away.
- ✓ Slurred speech, weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination.
- ✓ Repeated vomiting or nausea, convulsions or seizures (shaking or twitching).
- ✓ Unusual behavior, increased confusion, restlessness, or agitation.

- ✓ Loss of consciousness (passed out/knocked out). Even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously.

### **CONCUSSIONS AFFECT EACH ATHLETE DIFFERENTLY.**

While most athletes with a concussion feel better within a couple of weeks, some will have symptoms for months or longer. Talk with the athlete if you notice their concussion symptoms come back after they return to play.

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK AN ATHLETE HAS A POSSIBLE CONCUSSION?**

As a coach, if you think an athlete may have a concussion, you should:

- ✓ **REMOVE THE ATHLETE FROM PLAY.**  
When in doubt, sit them out!
- ✓ **KEEP AN ATHLETE WITH A POSSIBLE CONCUSSION OUT OF PLAY ON THE SAME DAY OF THE INJURY AND UNTIL CLEARED BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.**  
Do not try to judge the severity of the injury yourself. Only a health care provider should assess an athlete for a possible concussion. After you remove an athlete with a possible concussion from practice or play, the decision about return to practice or play is a medical decision that should be made by a health care provider. As a coach, recording the following information can help a health care provider in assessing the athlete after the injury:
  - ✓ Cause of the injury and force of the hit or blow to the head or body.
  - ✓ Any loss of consciousness (passed out/knocked out) and if so, for how long.
  - ✓ Any memory loss right after the injury.
  - ✓ Any seizures right after the injury.
  - ✓ Number of previous concussions (if any).
- ✓ **ASK FOR WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE ATHLETE'S HEALTH CARE PROVIDER ON RETURN TO PLAY.**  
These instructions should include information about when they can return to play and what steps you should take to help them safely return to play.

### **WHY SHOULD I REMOVE AN ATHLETE WITH A POSSIBLE CONCUSSION FROM PLAY?**

The brain needs time to heal after a concussion. An athlete who continues to play with concussion has a greater chance of getting another concussion. A repeat concussion that occurs while the brain is still healing from the first injury can be very serious and can affect an athlete for a lifetime. It can even be fatal.

### **SOME ATHLETES MAY NOT REPORT A CONCUSSION BECAUSE THEY DON'T THINK A CONCUSSION IS SERIOUS.**

They may also worry about:

- ✓ Losing their position on the team or during the game.
- ✓ Jeopardizing their future sports career.
- ✓ Looking weak.
- ✓ Letting their teammates or the team down.
- ✓ What their coach or teammates might think of them.

## **WHAT STEPS CAN I TAKE TO HELP AN ATHLETE RETURN TO PLAY?**

An athlete's return to school and sports should be a gradual process that is approved and carefully managed and monitored by a health care provider. When available, be sure to also work closely with your team's certified athletic trainer.

Below are five gradual steps that you, along with a health care provider, should follow to help safely return an athlete to play. Remember, this is a gradual process. These steps should not be completed in one day, but instead over days, weeks, or months.

### **BASELINE:**

Athlete is back to their regular school activities, is no longer experiencing symptoms from the injury when doing normal activities, and has a green light from their health care provider to begin the return to play process.

An athlete should only move to the next step if they do not have any new symptoms at the current step.

### **STEP 1: Light aerobic activity**

Begin with light aerobic exercise only to increase an athlete's heart rate. This means about 5 to 10 minutes on an exercise bike, walking, or light jogging. No weightlifting at this point.

### **STEP 2: Moderate activity**

Continue with activities to increase an athlete's heart rate with body or head movement. This includes moderate jogging, brief running, moderate-intensity stationary biking, moderate-intensity weightlifting (less time and/or less weight than a typical routine).

### **STEP 3: Heavy, non-contact activity**

Add heavy non-contact physical activity, such as sprinting/running, high-intensity stationary biking, regular weightlifting routine, non-contact sport-specific drills (in 3 planes of movement).

### **STEP 4: Practice & full contact**

An athlete may return to practice and full contact (if appropriate for the sport) in controlled practice.

### **STEP 5: Competition**

An athlete may return to competition.

### **REMEMBER:**

It is important for you to watch for concussion symptoms after each day's return to play progression activity. If an athlete's concussion symptoms come back, or he or she gets new symptoms when becoming more active at any step, this is a sign that the athlete is pushing him- or herself too hard. The athlete should stop these activities, and the athlete's health care provider should be contacted. After the okay from the athlete's health care provider, the athlete can begin at the previous step.

**Content Source:** CDC's HEADS UP campaign. Created through a grant to the CDC Foundation from the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE).

1. Kerr ZY, Register-Mihalik JK, Marshall SW, Evenson KR, Mihalik JP, Guskiewicz KM (2014). Disclosure and non-disclosure of concussion and concussion symptoms in athletes: Review and application of the socio-ecological framework. *Brain Inj.* 2014;28(8):1009-21.
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3. Chrisman, S. P., Quitiquit, C., Rivara, F. P. (2013). Qualitative Study of Barriers to Concussive Symptom Reporting in High School Athletics. *J Adolesc Health.* March, 2013, 52(3): 330-335.

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# APPENDIX C – STUDENT ATHLETE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

## Risk of Concussion or Other Head Injury Acknowledgement

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that I have to be an active participant in my own  
(Print First & Last Name)

healthcare. As such, I have the direct responsibility for reporting all of my injuries and illnesses to the coaches and/or athletic trainers of Black Hawk College. I recognize that the appropriateness of diagnosis, treatment, and return-to-play and other decisions are dependent upon me providing an accurate medical history, including fully disclosing all symptoms and complaints regarding both previous and current injuries, disabilities, and medical concerns. I hereby affirm that I have fully disclosed in writing all prior medical conditions and injuries. I further understand that I am responsible for disclosing all future medical conditions and injuries to Black Hawk College.

I am aware that participation in my sport carries a risk of injury to me, including death. For example, head injuries and concussions may occur. I freely assume all risks related to my participation.

By initialing and signing below, I acknowledge that Black Hawk College has provided me with specific educational material on head injuries and concussions. I understand the importance of immediately reporting symptoms of a head injury or concussion to the Black Hawk College coaches and/or athletic trainers.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that:  
(Print First & Last Name)

(INITIAL EACH LINE)

- \_\_\_\_\_ A concussion is a brain injury. I am responsible for immediately self-reporting signs and symptoms of a concussion to Black Hawk College coaches and/or athletic trainers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Participating in intercollegiate athletics may result in a concussion or other head injury.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have received information concerning the signs and symptoms of a concussion, and I understand those signs and symptoms.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Helmets, face shields, mouth guards, and other protective equipment do not eliminate the risk of concussions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that purposeful head contact in any sport is prohibited.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A concussion is not visible but is recognized by symptoms such as headache, dizziness, loss of consciousness, amnesia, vision problems, nausea, sensitivity to light, feeling sluggish, foggy or groggy, irritability, slow reaction time and concentration or memory problems.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Additional symptoms of a concussion may arise hours or days after the initial injury.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Returning to practice/games prior to being symptom free may result in a return of symptoms, a repeated concussion, or a more serious injury including death.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Repeated concussions may lead to permanent brain damage, psychological disorders or even death.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If I suspect a teammate has a concussion or other head injury, I am responsible for reporting the Injury to the Black Hawk College coaches and/or athletic trainer.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clearance for return to play after a head injury or concussion will be determined by medical personal trained in the treatment of head injuries or concussions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Black Hawk College has the authority to permanently remove me from participation in athletic activities if it is determined to be appropriate to protect my safety and well-being.

Student-Athlete's Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Sport: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Student-Athlete's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature (If under 18) \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX D – GENESIS HEALTH SYSTEM CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Following a concussion, it is **essential** to give the brain rest both physically and cognitively to allow appropriate healing. Returning to daily activities prior to appropriate rest can cause a continuation of symptoms, longer recovery time and long term symptoms.

### Return to Activity Protocol

**Step 1:** Complete physical and cognitive rest. No exertional activities until symptoms stop. This may include staying home from work or school and limiting cognitive demands, going part days if required. Cognitive rest includes:

- ✓ Limited use of cell phone, especially texting
- ✓ No video games
- ✓ Minimal TV
- ✓ Limited to no use of computer
- ✓ Brief periods of reading followed by rest
- ✓ Avoiding environments with excessive stimulation and noise

**Step 2:** Return to full cognitive demands (work, school, bills, etc).

**Step 3:** Low impact, light aerobic exercise including brisk walking, light jogging, swimming, riding exercise bike, etc. at a slightly elevated heart rate. No weight or resistance training. This should not begin until fully asymptomatic.

**Step 4:** Basic exercise, including running and other high impact activities.

**Step 5:** Weight-training can begin, full return to physical demands.

**Step 6:** Following medical clearance (if required from doctor, physical therapy etc), return to full prior level of activities (extracurricular activities, for athletes full contact practice or training).

**Step 7:** Athletes return to normal competition.

**\*\*Each step takes minimum of 24 hours before progression to next step. STOP and reduce activity if symptoms occur.**

Physical Symptoms	Cognitive Symptoms	Emotional Symptoms
Headache	Difficulty concentrating	Irritability
Fatigue	Feeling mentally foggy	Feelings of depression
Dizziness or imbalance	Feeling sluggish or slowed	Angers easily
Sensitivity to noise and/or light	down	Restlessness Easily frustrated
Nausea or vomiting	Difficulty remembering, forgetfulness	Sadness
		Impatience

## RESOURCES

2017-18 NJCAA Handbook: Position Statement on Safety: [http://njcaa.org/member\\_colleges/handbook](http://njcaa.org/member_colleges/handbook)

Bucknell University, Department of Athletics & Recreation:  
[https://bucknellbison.com/documents/2018/8/13//Bucknell\\_University\\_Concussion\\_Management\\_Plan\\_2018\\_19\\_Final\\_.pdf?id=3815](https://bucknellbison.com/documents/2018/8/13//Bucknell_University_Concussion_Management_Plan_2018_19_Final_.pdf?id=3815)

Center for Disease Control: [https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/basics/concussion\\_what.html](https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/basics/concussion_what.html)

Genesis Health System: [http://www.genesishealth.com/care-treatment/phys\\_med/concussion/about/](http://www.genesishealth.com/care-treatment/phys_med/concussion/about/)

Oregon Concussion and Management Program (OCAMP)  
[https://cbirt.org/sites/cbirt.org/files/resources/ocamp\\_coaches\\_all.pdf](https://cbirt.org/sites/cbirt.org/files/resources/ocamp_coaches_all.pdf)

Center for disease control and Prevention  
<https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/index.html>

## ENDNOTES

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/basics/concussion\\_what.html](https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/basics/concussion_what.html)

<sup>2</sup> NCAA Sport Science Institute, “Concussion Management and Diagnosis Best Practices”;  
<http://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/concussion-diagnosis-and-management-best-practices>

<sup>3</sup> Genesis Health System, “Concussion Management Program”; [http://www.genesishealth.com/care-treatment/phys\\_med/concussion/](http://www.genesishealth.com/care-treatment/phys_med/concussion/)