



## NCHSAA Concussion Return to Play Protocol

\*The **NCHSAA Concussion Return to Play (RTP) Protocol** is **REQUIRED** to be completed in its entirety for any concussed student-athlete before they are released to resume full participation in athletics. A step-by-step progression of physical and cognitive exertion is widely accepted as the appropriate approach to ensure a concussion has resolved, and that a student-athlete can return to athletics safely. The **NCHSAA Concussion (RTP) Protocol** has been designed using this step-by-step progression.

\*The **NCHSAA Concussion (RTP) Protocol** can be monitored by any of the following Licensed Health Care Providers (LHCP): Licensed Physician (MD/DO), Licensed Athletic Trainer, Licensed Physician Assistant, Licensed Nurse Practitioner, or a Licensed Neuropsychologist. A First Responder may monitor the RTP Protocol if a LHCP is unavailable.

\*After monitored completion of each stage without provocation/recurrence of signs and/or symptoms, a student-athlete is allowed to advance to the next stage of activity. The length of time for each stage is at least 24 hours.

Name of Student- Athlete: \_\_\_\_\_ Sport: \_\_\_\_\_ Male/Female

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Injury: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Concussion Diagnosed: \_\_\_\_\_

STAGE	EXERCISE	GOAL	DATE COMPLETED	COMMENTS	MONITORED BY
1	20-30 min of cardio activity: walking, stationary bike.	Perceived intensity/exertion: Light Activity			
2	30 min of cardio activity: jogging at medium pace. Body weight resistance exercise (e.g. push-ups, lunge walks) with minimal head rotation x 25 each.	Perceived intensity/exertion: Moderate Activity			
3	30 minutes of cardio activity: running at fast pace, incorporate intervals. Increase repetitions of body weight resistance exercise (e.g. sit-ups, push-ups, lunge walks) x 50 each. Sport-specific agility drills in three planes of movement.	Perceived intensity/exertion: Hard Activity, changes of direction with increased head and eye movement			
4	Participate in non-contact practice drills. Warm-up and stretch x 10 minutes. Intense, <u>non-contact</u> , sport-specific agility drills x 30-60 minutes.	Perceived intensity/exertion: High/Maximum Effort Activity			
First Responder Verification	If the RTP Protocol has been monitored by a First Responder (FR) then the FR must sign below attesting that they have reviewed the progress of this student-athlete (S-A) through stage 4 electronically, by phone, or in person with the Licensed Health Care Provider (LHCP) and that the S-A was cleared by the LHCP to complete stage 5. <b>FR Signature:</b> _____ <b>Date:</b> _____				
5	Participate in full practice. If in a contact sport, controlled contact practice allowed.				
LHCP signs RTP Form	The LHCP overseeing the student-athlete's (S-A) care is notified that the S-A remained asymptomatic after stage 5 was completed. The Return to Play (RTP) Form <b>MUST</b> be signed before the S-A is allowed to resume full participation in athletics. If signs or symptoms occur after stage 5 the S-A <b>MUST</b> return to the LHCP overseeing the S-A's care.				

**The individual who monitored the student-athlete's (RTP) Protocol MUST sign and date below when stage 5 is successfully completed.**

By signing below, I attest that I have monitored the above named student-athlete's return to play protocol through stage 5.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Licensed Physician, Licensed Athletic Trainer, Licensed Physician Assistant,  
Licensed Nurse Practitioner, Licensed Neuropsychologist, or First Responder (Please Circle)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print Name



**RETURN TO PLAY FORM:  
CONCUSSION MEDICAL CLEARANCE RELEASING THE  
STUDENT-ATHLETE TO  
RESUME FULL PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS**

This form must be signed by one of the following examining Licensed Health Care Providers (LHCP) identified in the Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act before the student-athlete is allowed to resume full participation in athletics: Licensed Physician (MD/DO), Licensed Athletic Trainer (LAT), Licensed Physician Assistant (PA), Licensed Nurse Practitioner (NP), or Licensed Neuropsychologist. This form must be signed by the student-athlete's parent/legal custodian giving their consent before their child resumes full participation in athletics.

Name of Student-Athlete: \_\_\_\_\_ Sport: \_\_\_\_\_ Male/Female

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Injury: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Concussion Diagnosed: \_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that the above-named student-athlete has been evaluated and treated for a concussion and that the Return to Play Protocol was monitored by:

\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

(Print Name of Person and Credential)

(Print Name of School)

As the examining LHCP, I attest that the above-named student-athlete is now reporting to be completely free of all clinical signs and reports he/she is entirely symptom-free at rest and with both full cognitive and full exertional/physical stress and that the above-named student-athlete has successfully completed the required NCHSAA Concussion Return to Play Protocol through stage 5. By signing below therefore, I give the above-named student-athlete consent to resume full participation in athletics.

**It is critical that the medical professional ultimately releasing this student-athlete to return to athletics after a concussion has appropriate expertise and training in concussion management. The NCHSAA, therefore, STRONGLY RECOMMENDS that in concussion cases, Licensed Athletic Trainers, Licensed Physician Assistants, Licensed Nurse Practitioners, consult with their supervising physician before signing this Return To Play Form, as per their respective state statutes.**

Signature of Licensed Physician, Licensed Athletic Trainer, Licensed Physician Assistant,  
Licensed Nurse Practitioner, Licensed Neuropsychologist (Please Circle)

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print Office Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\*\*\*\*\*

**Parent/Legal Custodian Consent for Their Child to Resume Full Participation in Athletics**

I am aware that the NCHSAA **REQUIRES** the consent of a child's parent or legal custodian prior to them resuming full participation in athletics after having been evaluated and treated for a concussion. I acknowledge that the Licensed Health Care Provider above has overseen the treatment of my child's concussion and has given their consent for my child to resume full participation in athletics. By signing below, I hereby give my consent for my child to resume full participation in athletics.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Legal Custodian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print Name and Relationship to Student-Athlete