

AUBURN SOCCER ASSOCIATION
CONCUSSION INFORMATION FORM

A concussion is a brain injury and all brain injuries are serious. They are caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. They can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Even though most concussions are mild, **all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly.** In other words, even a “ding” or a bump on the head can be serious. You cannot see a concussion and most sports concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Signs and symptoms of concussion may show up right after the injury or can take hours or days to fully appear. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms or signs of concussion yourself, seek medical attention right away.

Symptoms may include one or more of the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headaches • “Pressure in head” • Nausea or vomiting • Neck Pain • Balance problems or dizziness • Blurred, double, or fuzzy vision • Sensitivity to light or noise • Feeling sluggish or slowed down • Feeling foggy or groggy • Drowsiness • Change in sleep patterns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amnesia • “Don’t feel right” • Fatigue or low energy • Sadness • Nervousness or anxiety • Irritability • More emotional • Confusion • Concentration or memory problems (forgetting game plays) • Repeating the same question/comment

(Continued on Page 2)

Auburn Soccer Association Form adapted in 2011 from the CDC and the 3rd International Conference on Concussion in Sport.

Signs observed by teammates, parents and coaches include:

- Appears dazed
- Vacant facial expressions
- Confused about assignment
- Forgets plays
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily or displays uncoordination
- Answers questions slowly
- Slurred speech
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Can't recall events prior to hit
- Can't recall events after hit
- Seizures or convulsions
- Any change in typical behavior or personality
- Loses consciousness

What can happen if my child keeps on playing with a concussion or returns too soon?

Athletes with the signs and symptoms of concussion should be removed from play immediately. Continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of a concussion leaves the athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury. There is an increased risk of significant damage from a concussion for a period of time after that concussion occurs, particularly if the athlete suffers another concussion before completely recovering from the first one. This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling (second impact syndrome) with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes will often fail to report symptoms of injuries. Concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key to a student-athlete's safety.

Auburn Soccer Association Concussion Policy: Any participant who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be removed from the contest and shall not return to play until a medical release is issued by a medical doctor.

Any health care professional or Auburn Soccer Association coach may identify concussive signs, symptoms or behaviors of a participant during any type of athletic activity. Once concussive signs are identified, only a medical doctor can clear an athlete to return to play. Any coach in violation of the Auburn Soccer Association policy will be subject to sanctions to include removal as head or assistant coach.

(Continued on Page 3)

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All head coaches must complete annual training to learn how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion and how to seek proper treatment for a player suspected of having a concussion before their application to coach will be considered.

If you think your child has suffered a concussion:

Any athlete even suspected of suffering a concussion shall be removed from the game or practice immediately. No athlete may return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without written clearance from a medical doctor. Close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours. You should also inform your child's coach if you think that your child may have a concussion. Remember it's better to miss one game than miss the whole season. And when in doubt, the athlete sits out.

This form is required by Alabama law established in June 2011, coinciding with the Auburn Soccer Association Concussion Policy in effect since July 2011.

I have reviewed this information on concussions and am aware that a release by a medical doctor is required before a student may return to play under this policy.

_____	_____	_____
Athlete Name Printed	Athlete Signature	Date

_____	_____	_____
Parent Name Printed	Parent Signature	Date