



Concussion Safety Procedures

Concussion in Sports - Fast Facts:

- A concussion is a brain injury and all are serious.
- Most concussions occur without loss of consciousness.
- Recognition and proper response to concussions when they first occur can help prevent further injury or even death.



1. **All Coaches, Assistants and Referees must complete the CDC's free online Concussion Training for Coaches PRIOR to the first practice of the season.**

Visit http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html or click the link available on the Coaches' Corner of the website to complete the training.

2. Coaches are responsible for ensuring the safety of all players, both on their team and on other teams.
3. In compliance with Florida Statutes, coaches must be cognizant of signs or symptoms of concussions. A concussion is a traumatic brain injury and can cause irreparable damage if not timely acknowledged and dealt with.
4. If a coach believes that any child on the field has suffered a concussion, the child must immediately be removed from play. If the injury occurs during a game and the referee has not already noticed the possible concussion, the coach should immediately notify the referee. The referee should immediately stop play.
5. The referee in conjunction with the coaches should instruct the child's parent(s) to seek the advice of a health care professional. The coach must inform the parent(s) to obtain a note from their physician clearing the child for competitive play.
6. The injured player's name must be reported by the coaching team to a WSA official after the game or practice (via an email).
7. The player will not be permitted to return to an organized practice or game sanctioned by WSA until he or she submits a note from a physician clearing him or her for competitive play.
8. Upon receipt of the physician's note, a WSA official will provide written approval to the coaching team to confirm that the player may participate in WSA sanctioned activities.