



# Hamilton Youth Athletics

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## CONCUSSION POLICY

In order to protect young athletes, the State of Ohio has passed a law regarding concussions in youth sports, commonly called the "Return to Play" law. This law, similar to laws enacted in most other states, imposes training, safety, and awareness requirements on youth sports organizations, like Hamilton Youth Athletics (HYA), and its leagues, associations, tournaments, coaches, referees, officials, and athletes and their families.

A concussion is a brain injury and all brain injuries are serious. A concussion may be 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. A concussion 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.

Because of the significant health concerns posed by the risk of concussions and because of the Return to Play laws enacted by the State of Ohio, HYA has developed a Concussion Policy that is applicable to all players, coaches, parents/guardians, referees, and league officials.

- 1) All referees/umpires shall complete an online training course prior to each season. Certificates of Completion shall be emailed to HYAKids@gmail.com. A hard copy of the Certificate of Completion shall be provided to HYA and kept on file in the concession stand.
- 2) HYA shall notify all coaches of the requirement to timely complete an online training course prior to each season. Certificates of Completion shall be emailed to HYAKids@gmail.com. A hard copy of the Certificate of Completion shall be provided to HYA and kept on file in the concession stand.
- 3) HYA shall provide all parents with a **Concussion Information Fact Sheet** and a **Parent/Guardian Concussion Information Fact Sheet Acknowledgment** form as part of the registration process. Parent/guardian acknowledges receipt of the forms on the registration form.
- 4) If a concussion is suspected:
  - a. Coach shall immediately remove the child from activity (practice or game) and advise the child's parent/guardian that a physician's Return to Play Written Authorization must be obtained and submitted to HYA prior to the child resuming participation;
  - b. Coach shall, by end of day, email HYAKids@gmail.com of the decision to remove the child from participation due to suspected concussion and include team name/age division/gender and child's name;
  - c. If a child is removed during a game, the Referee shall notify and provide the child's name to the Board Member in concession stands immediately following the game;
  - d. HYA shall maintain a list of all players under suspension in the Concession Stand. Said list shall be available to all referees during games;
  - e. In the event a parent/guardian contests any decision regarding this policy, the referee, or if during a practice, the coach shall contact HYA at (614) 375-3567.
- 5) Return to Play following a suspected concussion
  - a. Parent/guardian is advised to follow the advice of a physician
  - b. Once a parent/guardian has obtained a completed Physician's Return to Play Authorization Form
    - i. The original authorization shall be presented to the coach and a copy shall be provided to the coach, and
    - ii. The original authorization shall be presented to an HYA Board Member at the concession stand and a copy shall be provided to the HYA Board Member.

All documentation related to this policy, including but not limited to the online training Certificates of Completion for coaches and referees, Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment forms, and Physician Return to Play Written Authorization forms, shall be retained by the HYA Board and stored by season for one year after which it shall be securely destroyed.