

TENNESSEE STATE SOCCER ASSOCIATION
CONCUSSION PROCEDURE FOR COACHES AND SOCCER OFFICIALS

This policy is governed by Tennessee Code Annotated § 68-55-503(b)(1)(F):

Each organization is directed to:

Establish a policy for the immediate removal of any youth athlete who shows signs, symptoms, and behaviors consistent with a concussion from the activity or competition (including practice or games) for evaluation by a licensed health care professional, if available, and, if not, by the coach or other designated person. In determining whether a youth athlete suffered from a possible concussion, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's concussion signs and symptoms checklist shall be utilized.

If a player shows signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion:

1. If observed by the referee, he/she shall immediately stop play and notify the coach that the player shows signs, symptoms, or behaviors of a possible concussion and remove the player from the field. The referee cannot diagnose a concussion but can identify the signs, symptoms, or behaviors and safely have a player removed from the field for evaluation.
2. A coach or assistant coach who observes a player showing signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall immediately notify the referee or AR so that play may be stopped and the player may be safely removed from the field for evaluation.
3. A player who is removed from the field who has shown signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, must be evaluated by a licensed health care professional, if available, and if not, by the coach or other designated person who has undergone and completed Concussion, Recognition, and Head Injury Safety Education course program. In determining whether a youth athlete suffers from a possible concussion, the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions' concussion Signs and Symptoms Checklist shall be utilized.
4. A youth athlete who has been removed from play shall not return to practice or competition during which the youth athlete suffered, or is suspected to

have suffered, a concussion and not return to play or participate in any supervised team activities involving physical exertion, including games, competitions, or practices until the youth athlete is evaluated by a health care provider and receives written clearance from a health care provider for a full or graduated return to play. This paragraph does not apply if there is a legitimate explanation other than a concussion for the signs, symptoms, or behaviors observed.

5. Any coach who is making an evaluation rather than a licensed health care professional because one is not available shall err on the side of caution if they cannot definitively identify a legitimate explanation other than a concussion for the signs, symptoms, or behaviors observed.
6. Once a youth athlete has been removed from play and the youth athlete suffered, or is suspected to have suffered a concussion, the coach must have the Concussion Return to Play Form and instructions from a medical professional before the athlete shall be allowed to return to play.
7. The head coach shall notify as soon as possible the parents/guardians of the youth athlete who has suffered, or is suspected to have suffered a concussion, during practice or game play and describe such signs, symptoms, or behaviors observed consistent with concussions either observed by the coach or made available to the coach.