A Fact Sheet for **ATHLETES**



WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury that affects how your brain works. It can happen when your brain gets bounced around in your skull after a fall or hit to the head.

This sheet has information to help you protect yourself from concussion or other serious brain injury and know what to do if a concussion occurs.

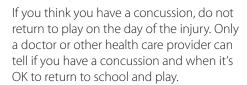
WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK I HAVE A CONCUSSION?



REPORT IT.

Tell your coach and parent if you think you or one of your teammates may have a concussion. You won't play your best if you are not feeling well, and playing with a concussion is dangerous. Encourage your teammates to also report their symptoms.

GET CHECKED OUT BY A DOCTOR.





GIVE YOUR BRAIN TIME TO HEAL.



Most athletes with a concussion get better within a couple of weeks. For some, a concussion can make everyday activities, such as going to school, harder. You may need extra help getting back to your normal activities. Be sure to update your parents and doctor about how you are feeling.





HOW CAN I TELL IF I HAVE A CONCUSSION?

You may have a concussion if you have any of these symptoms after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body:



Get a headache



Feel dizzy, sluggish or foggy



Be bothered by light or noise



Have double or blurry vision



Vomit or feel sick to your stomach



Have trouble focusing or problems remembering



Feel more emotional or "down"



Feel confused



Have problems with sleep

A concussion feels different to each person, so it's important to tell your parents and doctor how you feel. You might notice concussion symptoms right away, but sometimes it takes hours or days until you notice that something isn't right.

The information provided in this document or through linkages to other sites is not a substitute for medical or professional care. Questions about diagnosis and treatment for concussion should be directed to a physician or other health care provider.







All your teammates should avoid hits to the head and follow the rules for safe play to lower chances of getting a concussion.





If one of your teammates has a concussion, tell them that they're an important part of the team, and they should take the time they need to get better.

