



YOUTH SPORTS PROTOCOL FOR REGISTERED OFFICIALS DURING CONTESTS

1. Determine prior to the start of the contest whether a school/community-based youth athletic organization has access to a designated health care professional* during the contest.
2. Continue to monitor players for possible signs of injury as usual.
3. Remove any player that shows signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion per CDC Concussion Checklist.
4. Inform the head coach that the player is being removed for showing signs, symptoms or behavior consistent with a concussion.
5. The school/community-based youth athletic organization shall have the player examined by their designated health care professional. If the designated health care professional determines that the student has not sustained a concussion, the head coach may so advise the officials during an appropriate stoppage of play and the athlete may re-enter competition pursuant to contest rules.
6. The head coach is in charge of getting clearance from the school/community-based youth athletic organization's designated health-care professional.
7. If the school/ community-based youth athletic organization does not have access to a designated health care professional, or if the school/community-based youth athletic organization's designated health care professional suspects the athlete may have sustained a concussion, **the only means for an athlete to return to practice or play is to complete an evaluation by a licensed medical doctor, osteopathic physician or a clinical neuropsychologist with concussion training and present a "Concussion Return to Play" clearance to the school/community based youth athletic organization.**
8. If signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with concussion are observed by an official, and a designated health care professional is not available to evaluate the athlete, **the "Concussion Return to Play" form MUST be completed and signed by a licensed medical doctor, osteopathic physician or a clinical neuropsychologist with concussion training and shown to the official(s) by the head coach prior to a student-athlete returning to participate in a contest the same day.**
9. Officials have no role in the diagnosis of a concussion. NFHS rules do require that the officials remove players from the contest when signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion are observed and the above written protocol must be followed.

*Designated health care professionals – certified athletic trainer, licensed nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, medical doctor or osteopathic physician