BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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BC Soccer Policy

Policy Type	Operational Policy
Created	June 2022
Revised	July 2026
Reviewed	**Annually**
Policy Name	**Concussion Management Policy**

Policy Statement
BC Soccer believes in the health and safety of all players and fully supports and requires all members and affiliated organizations to have a "Concussion Management Plan" for all registered participants that aligns with Canada Soccer's Concussion Policy, adopted by BC Soccer.

Purpose
To ensure BC Soccer members and affiliated organizations know they must have an effective "Concussion Management Plan" in place to protect the health and safety of BC Soccer affiliated players.

Standards
1. Annually member organizations and affiliated organizations will ensure players, with their parent(s)/ guardian(s) if the player is under the age of 18, are educated about the signs and symptoms of concussions.
2. Players, with their parent(s)/ guardian(s) if under the age of 18, must acknowledge that they have received information about the signs and symptoms of concussions and that they have a responsibility to report concussion-related injuries and illnesses to an independent medical professional.
3. Ensure players, with their parent(s)/ guardian(s), if the player is under the age of 18, who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion will be removed from athletic activities (e.g., competition, practice, or physical conditioning sessions) and assessed by an independent medical professional with experience in the evaluation and management of concussions.
4. Require medical clearance for a player, with their parent(s)/ guardian(s) if the player is under the age of 18, diagnosed with a concussion to return to athletic activity (e.g., competition, practice, or physical conditioning sessions) as determined by the independent medical professional.
5. Require players, with their parent(s)/ guardian(s) if the player is under the age of 18, diagnosed with a concussion to provide written evidence of medical clearance to the players' coach, and also the local club, youth district, or adult league before returning to athletic activity (e.g., competition, practice, or physical conditioning sessions)
6. Require implementation of a graduated Return-to-Sport protocol aligned with Canada Soccer's Concussion Guidelines prior to full-contact training or competition.
7. Anyone with suspected concussion following an injury must be immediately removed from playing or training and receive a prompt assessment by a medical doctor or nurse practitioner.
8. Ensure that no player with a suspected concussion returns to athletic activity on the same day as the injury.
9. Require use of Canada Soccer's Concussion Assessment Medical Report to document diagnosis, recovery status, and medical clearance prior to return to full-contact training or competition.
10. All Concussion Management Plans (and/or policies) must align with Canada Soccer's Concussion Policy and have a clear protocol on Concussion Management.

Definitions
- **Concussion**: A type of traumatic brain injury caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or by a hit to the body that causes the head and brain to move rapidly back and forth

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Guidelines
Government of British Columbia
Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine
BC Injury research and Prevent Unit - Concussion Awareness Training Tool

Applicable Operational Procedures
N/A

Compliance to BC Soccer Governing Documents
In accordance with BC Soccer's "*Bylaws 3.4.a.ii"* all Member Organizations must comply with the applicable Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Policies, decisions and directives of BC Soccer and the statutes, bylaws, regulations, directives and decisions of Canada Soccer, FIFA at all times

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