

CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT COMPLEX CASES & CASE REVIEW

COMPLEX CONCUSSION SCENARIOS

The standard care pathway only applies to players who have suffered their first concussion in a 12 - month period.

Certain players may have the potential for more complex injuries. Players must see a medical doctor experienced in sports concussion management to follow an individualised management plan if they have:

- ✓ ≥ 2 concussions in 12 months.
- ✓ Multiple concussions over their playing career.
- ✓ Concussions occurring with less collision force.
- ✓ Concussion symptoms lasting longer than expected i.e. a few days.

The management of every concussion case should be individualised, but the occurrence of a second, or more concussions in a 12-month period infers that a greater duration of recovery may be needed.

It is a requirement that all players suffering two or more concussions in a season be assessed by a medical doctor experienced in sports concussion management and confirmed that they have fully recovered from concussion prior to returning to contact sport participation. The appropriate Competition Manager or Member Union should be contacted for advice on the designated Concussion consultant to see in such cases.

If a player suffers three concussions in any season or 12-month period, they should strongly consider not playing contact sport for the remainder of that season, and should receive appropriate clearance to return in future seasons by a doctor experienced in the management of concussion.

REVIEW

In very rare occurrences it is possible that concussion or suspected concussion was incorrectly reported. This can be either from an alternative diagnosis or a reporting error. In such circumstances, the concussion case can be reviewed.

- **Alternative diagnosis** - if a player shows signs and symptoms of concussion and if the results of subsequent assessments (3 hours after injury and 36-48 hours after injury) the medical doctor making these assessments determines that the abnormal assessment is not related to a concussion, the following procedure MUST be followed;
 - Doctor must identify and document an alternative diagnosis for the abnormal assessment(s).
 - This documentation is provided to the appropriate Competition Manager or Member Union.
 - The Competition or Member Unions appointed Concussion consultant will then review and either uphold or overturn the concussion decision.

- Upon satisfaction that there is no evidence to suggest the players signs and symptoms were not associated with concussion the case is updated to 'not confirmed' and the player may return to contact training and match play.

- **Reporting error**
 - The Match Official, Medical/First Aid Staff, Team Manager/Coach are contacted by the Competition Manager to verify that the player did not show any signs or symptoms of concussion.
 - Upon satisfaction that there is no evidence to suggest the player suffered a concussion the case is updated to 'not confirmed' and the player may return to contact training and match play.

**As of 31 January 2018*