

# EPLL Informed Consent About Concussions and Head Injuries

Effective July 1, 2012, Florida Statute 943.0438 requires that the parent or guardian and the youth who is participating in athletic competition or who is a candidate for an athletic competition or who is a candidate for an athletic team to sign and return an informed consent that explains the nature and risk of concussion and head injury, each year before participating in athletic competition or engaging in any practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity associated with the youth's candidacy for an athletic team.

## The Facts:

- A concussion is a brain injury.
- All concussions are serious.
- Concussions can occur without the loss of consciousness.
- Concussions can occur in any sport.
- Recognition and proper management of concussions when they first occur can help prevent further injury or even death

## What is a Concussion?

A concussion is an injury that changes how the cells in the brain normally work. A concussion is caused by a blow to the head or body with causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. Even a "ding," "getting your bell rung," or what seems like a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious. Concussions can also result from a fall or players colliding with each other, or obstacles such as a goal post, even if they do not directly hit their head.

To help recognize a concussion, you should watch for the following signs in your athletes:

1. A forceful blow to the head or body that results in rapid movement of the head; and
2. Any change in the athlete's behavior, thinking, or physical functioning.

Signs and symptoms of concussion that may be reported by a coach or other observer:

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets sports plays
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Can't recall events prior to hit or fall

Signs and symptoms that may be reported by the player:

- Headache or pressure in the head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion
- Does not feel right

Both parents/guardians and players are advised to take the Center for Disease Control's free online concussion training at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/Training/HeadsUpConcussion.html>

Under Florida law the player who is suspected of having a concussion or head injury must be removed from play or practice. Before the player may return to practice or competition, a written medical clearance to return stating the athlete no longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or other head injury must be received from an appropriate health care professional trained in the diagnosis, evaluation, and management of concussions. In Florida, an appropriate health care professional (AHCP) is defined as either licensed physician (MD as per Chapter 458, Florida Statutes) a licensed physician's assistant under the supervision of a MD/DO (as per Chapters 458.347 and 459.022, Florida Statutes) or a health care professional trained in the management of concussions.

I have read and understand this consent form, and I volunteer to participate.

**Player Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

As parent or guardian, I have read and understand this consent form and give permission for my child named above to participate.

**Player/Legal Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_