Yellowjackets Safety & Return to Play (RTP) Policy

Background: An important goal of the Hockey Operations Advisory Board is to promote a safe environment for its players and curb injuries by enforcing USA Hockey rules, administering disciplinary procedures that provide for significant discipline for attempt to injure infractions, and administering effective injury/concussion management policies and procedures. The advisory board understands that concussions are a possible injury for players who participate in ice hockey. Continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms of a head injury leaves the player vulnerable to greater injury. The hockey operations advisory board supports a cautious and conservative approach to concussions and head injuries by ensuring we are in compliance with our Concussion

Management Guidelines

Concussion Management Guidelines:

 Provide education, training, and head injury information for coaches, players and parents/guardians.

 Recommend all age-appropriate players (age 13-18) complete the ImPACT (Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing) offered by AHAI via their A Step aHead Program (contact our Safety Coordinator for details). This will establish a benchmark healthy standard to be used in the event a player becomes injured.

 Recommend all age-appropriate players to wear a Shockwave Impact Indicator on their helmet (provided by Yellowjackets). This "tool" will not take the place of on-bench evaluations by coaches and, most importantly, a positive indication by this device will not, necessarily, require a players' removal from play.

 Remove players immediately from the game or practice who are symptomatic.

 Follow the Yellowjackets injury report procedures and insure the injured player's parent/guardian is communicated to immediately.

 Require symptomatic players to not return to play until the symptoms are resolved and a written release has been obtained by a qualified health-care professional (Board Certified Primary Care Sports Medicine Physician) and forwarded to hockey operations Safety Coordinator prior to participating in their next game or practice.

Policy: Any player, who in the opinion of a coach, athletic trainer, or physician exhibits any signs, symptoms, or behavior consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from play and practice until they are cleared to return to by a health care professional who is a board certified Primary Care Sports Medicine Physician. Such clearance must be in writing and signed by the physician via the Yellowjackets Return to Play (RTP) Form.

Questions? Please contact Safety Coordinator, at puckman815@aol.com

Yellowjackets
Return to Play (RTP) Form

_____
Name of Player

☐ is able to return to play following injuries sustained on

_____
Date

Considerations / restrictions with respect to return to play:

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_____
Name of Board Certified Primary Care Signature

_____
Sports Medicine Physician

Date: _____

This information is strictly confidential and will only be used to assist in the player's safe return to play. Completed forms should be submitted to the Team Manager before returning to play.