

Arkansas Activities Association Concussion Guidelines

Revised July 2025

1. Every coach and registered volunteer must receive training on concussions once every three years per A.C.A. § 6-18-708.
2. Every student athlete and parent/guardian must read and sign a “Concussion Fact Sheet for Athletes and Parents.” (These forms should be kept annually for each sport)
3. A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or who has had an injury in a game, an activity, or a practice for a game shall be removed from the game, activity, or practice at that time per A.C.A. § 6-18-710.
4. A youth athlete who has been removed under this subdivision (d)(4) shall not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed healthcare provider (Neuropsychologist, MD, DO, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Certified Athletic Trainer, Physical Therapist, Physician Assistant, or Chiropractor) trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and receives written clearance to return to play from that healthcare provider. (Neuropsychologist, MD, DO, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Certified Athletic Trainer, Physical Therapist, Physician Assistant, or Chiropractor) per A.C.A. § 6-18-710.
5. Any student athlete that has been clinically diagnosed by a QHP with a concussion must then be medically cleared prior to beginning the Graduated Return to Play Protocol (GRTP). The GRTP can be found [here](#).
6. After a mild head injury/concussion, it is best practice to have students return to class as soon as possible. Return to Learn provides guidance on getting students back to learning and can be found [here](#).

**THE ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION SPORTS MEDICINE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE SCHOOL
THEN KEEPS THE MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS FOR A MINIMUM
OF 3 YEARS FOR DOCUMENTATION**