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## **Concussion Policy:**

All active members of BC Soccer shall have a *Concussion Management Plan* for registered players and their families. The plan shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Annually 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. 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
2. 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 shall 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.
3. Requires 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
4. Requires 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 team's coach and also the local club, youth district, or adult league before returning to athletic activity (e.g., competition, practice, or physical conditioning sessions)

### **Implementation:**

Active members of BC Soccer should fully implement their policy on concussions as soon as possible, but are expected to have their *Concussion Management Plan* fully implemented no later than September 1, 2016.

### **Support for active members of BC Soccer**

The British Columbia government has established a website with key partners, which is available at:

<http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthtopics/content.asp?hwid=tp23364spec>

Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine helped form the Canadian Concussion Collaborative webpage:

<http://casem-acmse.org/education/ccc/>

BC Soccer has its webpage with access to other soccer specific resources and the *Return to Play* guidelines used for its programs, which can be viewed at:

<https://bcsoccer.net/player-health>

These sources have been developed to provide reliable, evidence-based information on preventing, identifying, and managing head injuries and concussions to parents, children and youth, coaches, and organizations.

### **Effect of violation:**

A violation of this policy will be considered an institutional violation and member organizations will be subject to discipline by BC Soccer.