



## Concussion Code of Conduct for Athletes

This is the Concussion Code of Conduct for athletes used by Canada Gaelic Athletic Association (CGAA). Items marked with an asterisk \* are mandatory by O.Reg. 161/19: General in Ontario.

### I can help prevent concussions through my:

- Efforts to ensure that I/my child wear the proper equipment and wear it correctly.
- Efforts to help myself/my child develop skills and strength so I/they can participate to the best of my/their abilities.
- Respect for the rules of my/my child's sport or activity/Ensure that my child upholds respect for the rules of their sport and activities
- Commitment to fair play and respect for all (respecting other coaches, team trainers, officials and all participants and ensuring my athletes respect others and play fair)/Ensuring my child's commitment to fair play and respect for all (respecting other coaches, team trainers, officials and all participants and ensuring my athletes respect others and play fair). \*

### I will care for the health and safety of all participants by taking concussions seriously. I understand that:

- A concussion is a brain injury that can have both short- and long-term effects.
- A blow to the head, face, or neck, or a blow to the body may cause the brain to move around inside the skull and result in a concussion.
- A person doesn't need to lose consciousness to have had a concussion.
- An athlete with a suspected concussion should stop participating in training, practice or competition **immediately, and this applies to myself/my child.**
- I have a commitment to concussion recognition and reporting, including self-reporting of possible concussion and reporting to a designated person when an individual suspects that another individual may have sustained a concussion. \*
- Continuing to participate in further training, practice or competition with a suspected concussion increases a person's risk of more severe, longer lasting symptoms, and increases their risk of other injuries or even death.

### I will create an environment where participants feel safe and comfortable speaking up. I will:

- Encourage athletes not to hide their symptoms, but to tell the coach/trainer, an official, parent or another adult they trust if they experience **any** symptoms of concussion after an impact.
- Lead by example. I will tell a fellow coach, official, team trainer and seek medical attention by a physician or nurse practitioner if I am experiencing any concussion symptoms.
- Understand and respect that any athlete with a suspected concussion must be removed from sport and not permitted to return until they undergo a medical assessment by a physician or nurse practitioner and have been medically cleared to return to training, practice or competition.
- Commit to taking opportunities before and after each training, practice and competition to enable athletes to discuss potential issues related to concussions. \*

**I will support all participants to take the time they need to recover.**

- I understand my commitment to supporting the return-to-sport process. \*
- I understand all athletes will have to be cleared by a physician or nurse practitioner before returning to sport.
- I will respect my fellow coaches, team trainers, parents, physicians and nurse practitioners and any decisions made with regards to the health and safety of myself/my child.

**I will help prevent concussions, through my:**

- Commitment to zero-tolerance for prohibited play that is considered high risk for causing concussions. \*
- Acknowledgement of mandatory expulsion from competition for violating zero-tolerance for prohibited play that is considered high risk for causing concussions. \*
- Acknowledgement of the escalating consequences for those who repeatedly violate the Concussion Code of Conduct. \*

**By signing here, I acknowledge that I have fully reviewed and commit to this Concussion Code of Conduct.**

**Athlete/Athlete's Parent or Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Official:** \_\_\_\_\_

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