



WILLAMSTOWN CANNONS BASKETBALL CLUB INC
Registered No A0031670Z

CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT POLICY

Williamstown Cannons Basketball Club (Cannons) is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for everyone. A critical element of this commitment remains player welfare, both in the short and the long term. Therefore, this policy has been developed to emphasise concussion management for children.

***Concussion** is caused by trauma to the brain, which can be either direct or indirect (e.g. whiplash injury). When the forces transmitted to the brain are high enough, they can “stun” the nerves and affect the way in which the brain functions. Common symptoms of concussion include: headache, blurred vision, dizziness, nausea, balance problems, fatigue and feeling “not quite right”. Other common features of concussion include confusion, memory loss, and reduced ability to think clearly and process information. You don’t have to lose consciousness to have a concussion.*

Memory function - if a player cannot answer the following questions correctly this may suggest concussion:

“Which venue are we at today?”

“What quarter/half is it now?”

“Who scored last in this game?”

“Which team did you play last game?”

“Did your team win their last game?”

If a medical professional or trained person is available then a Standardised Concussion Assessment Tool (SCAT) Card should be used to evaluate players for concussion.

The most important steps in the initial management of concussion include:

- 1. Recognising the injury**
- 2. Removing the player from the activity**
- 3. Referring the player to a medical doctor for assessment**

Cannons members should adhere to the following guidelines whilst undertaking approved Cannons activities, when attending any functions, or participating in and/or watching training and games:

- Any player visibly suspected of being affected by: loss of consciousness or responsiveness, lying motionless on the ground/slow to get up; unsteady on feet/balance problems or falling over/incoordination; grabbing/clutching of head; dazed, blank or vacant look; confused/not aware of plays or events must be **IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM THE PLAY AND COURT.**

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- Due care of the neck/cervical spine must be given when removing any player after a head knock.
- Initial management must adhere to the basic principles of first aid - Danger, Response, Airway, Breathing, and Circulation.
- **Any player who has suffered a concussion must not be allowed to return to play in the same game.** Do not be swayed by the opinion of the player, coaching staff, parents or others suggesting premature return to play.
- In all cases of suspected concussion, the player should be referred to a medical professional for diagnosis and guidance as well return to train/play decisions, even if the symptoms resolve.
- In unconscious players, the player must only be moved by qualified health professionals (except where required for airway support). If no qualified health professional is on site, then do not move the player – await arrival of the ambulance.
- Regarding follow up management, a concussed player must not be allowed to return to school or return to play before having a medical clearance. Return to learning and school should take precedence over return to sport. Children require a different approach from adults because their brains are developing, and they need to continue learning and acquiring knowledge. As such, the priority is not just player welfare and return to play, but a critical element is return to school and learning.
- Players should not return to train/play until they have successfully returned to school/learning without worsening of symptoms.
- In every case, the decision regarding the timing of return to train/play should be made by a medical doctor.
- An Incident Report Form must be completed and forwarded to the Cannons Secretary in all cases.

For the avoidance of doubt, Williamstown Cannons Basketball Club reserves the right in all cases to request a player, having sustained a concussion injury, to undergo medical assessment conducted by a medical doctor with experience in concussion injuries and to be medically cleared prior to returning to train/play.

Supporting resources and documents

Basketball Australia: www.basketball.net.au > About BA > Policies & By-Laws > Guidelines
Sports Medicine Australia: www.sma.org.au > Resources & Advice > Concussion

Revision History

Revision Ref. No.	Issue Date	Description	Originator	Approver	Document Reference
Initial release	26 May 2014	Concussion Management Policy	Frank Schobben	Williamstown Cannons Basketball Club Committee	WCBC-Pol-001