

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clarify who is responsible to maintain the documentation of a return to play form as per the requirements of Hockey Canada's Concussion Policy.

Adherence

When a player is suspected or deemed to have suffered a concussion, they are not permitted to play, practice or train until the player has completed the six-step return to play strategy and is medically cleared by physician.

Written clearance from a physician is required and must be provided to team coaches/safety person or association official.

Team officials and parent/guardians are not to pressure the player to return to play until the player has completed the six-step return to play strategy and is medically cleared by physician.

As per Rule **2.2m**, Team officials are not permitted to allow an injured player to be on the players' bench during a game or practice without Hockey Canada / HNO Hockey required protective equipment.

Discipline

Any team, association or individual who knowingly disregards their responsibility of requiring a physician's written permission permitting a player to return to play following a concussion will be subject to suspension.

Approved by Board of Directors: February 11, 2023

Replaces: October 13, 2017

Reviewed: Annually