

Signs and Symptoms of Worsening Brain Injury

A student/athlete should receive immediate medical attention for the following dangerous symptoms of a concussion. These include any of the following:

Loss of Consciousness

Vomiting

Confusion

Convulsions or seizures

One pupil is larger than the other

Difficulty recognizing people or places

Extreme drowsiness or cannot be awakened

Any weakness or numbness

Headache worsens or does not go away after 24 hours

When a student athlete shows any signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, the athlete shall be immediately removed from practice or competition and evaluated by the athletic trainer who will conduct side line concussion testing. If the student-athlete requires further care, it is recommended the student be evaluated by a health care specialist with experience in the evaluation and management of concussion.

Boarding students that do not exhibit any signs/or symptoms of worsening head injury can remain in the dormitory overnight after being evaluated by an athletic trainer or school nurse. The student must be seen by a physician at PEDIWEST or by their PCP the following day. Students will be informed of the signs and symptoms of worsening brain injury and will be advised to contact the health office nurse on-call, dorm parent and/or EMS if conditions warrant during the overnight.

A student athlete diagnosed with a concussion shall be withheld from the competition or practice and not return to activity for the remainder of that day.

Parents/Guardian should be notified at once. Daily symptom check list shall be completed in the health office. Students must visit the health office daily to have this completed.

The student-athlete should be monitored for signs of deterioration.

The student-athlete should be evaluated by a concussion specialist or if at school, by the athletic trainer or school nurse.

Return to play will follow a medically supervised stepwise process which should be initiated by the concussion specialist in communication with the athletic training staff.