



**Saugeen Shores Minor Hockey Association (SSMHA)
Concussion Code of Conduct
for Athletes and Parents/Guardians**

Player Name:

I will help prevent concussions by:

- Wearing the proper equipment for hockey and wearing it correctly.
- Developing my skills and strength so that I can participate to the best of my ability.
- Respecting the rules of hockey.
- My commitment to fair play and respect for all (other athletes, coaches, team trainers and officials).

I will care for my health and safety by taking concussions seriously, and I understand that:

- A concussion is a brain injury that can have both short- and long-term effects.
- A blow to my head, face or neck, or a blow to the body that causes the brain to move around inside the skull may cause a concussion.
- I don't need to lose consciousness to have had a concussion.
- I have a commitment to concussion recognition and reporting, including self-reporting of possible concussion and reporting to a designated person when and individual suspects that another individual may have sustained a concussion. This means, if I think I might have a concussion I should stop participating in further training, practice or competition **immediately**. And I should tell an adult if I think another athlete has a concussion.
- Continuing to participate in further training, practice or competition with a possible concussion increases my risk of more severe, longer lasting symptoms, and increases my risk of other injuries.

I will not hide concussion symptoms. I will speak up for myself and others.

- I will not hide my symptoms. I will tell a coach, official, team trainer, parent or another adult I trust if I experience **any** symptoms of concussion.
- If someone else tells me about concussion symptoms, or I see signs they might have a concussion, I will tell a coach, official, team trainer, parent or another adult I trust so they can help.
- I understand that if I have a suspected concussion, I will be removed from sport and that I will not be able to return to training, practice or competition until I undergo a medical assessment by a qualified health care practitioner and have been medically cleared to return to training, practice or competition.
- I have a commitment to sharing any pertinent information regarding incidents of removal from sport with the athlete's school and any other sport organization with which the athlete has registered. This means, if I am diagnosed with a concussion, I understand that letting all of my other coaches and teachers know about my injury will help them support me while I recover.

I will take the time I need to recover, because it is important for my health.

- I understand my commitment to supporting the return-to-sport process and I will have to follow SSMHA's Return-to-Sport Protocol.
- I understand I will have to be medically cleared by a health care practitioner before returning to training, practice or competition.
- I will respect my coaches, team trainers, parents, health-care professionals, and medical doctors and nurse practitioners, regarding my health and safety.

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. This means a player can and will be disqualified/expelled from play if he/she violates the zero-tolerance policy.
- Acknowledgement of the escalating consequences for those who repeatedly violate the Concussion Code of Conduct.

By signing, I acknowledge that I have fully reviewed and commit to the Concussion Code of Conduct.
Athlete: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____