



## **Concussion Code of Conduct for Players and Parents/Guardians of Players under 18 year of age**

### **I will help prevent concussions by:**

- Respecting the Laws of Soccer
- Wearing the proper players' clothing as per Law 4 and wearing it correctly.
- Developing my skills and strength so that I can participate to the best of my ability.
- My commitment to fair play and respect for all (respecting other players, coaches, team trainers and match officials).
- 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 (Meaning: I will be disqualified/expelled from play if I violate the zero-tolerance policy).
- Acknowledgement of the escalating consequences for those who repeatedly violate the Concussion Code of Conduct.

### **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. (Meaning: If I think I might have a concussion I should stop participating in further training, practice or competition **immediately**, or tell an adult if I think another player 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 medical doctor or nurse 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 player's school and any other sport organization with which the player has registered (Meaning: 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-play process (I will follow NSC's Return-to-Play Protocol).
- I understand I will have to be medically cleared by a medical doctor or nurse 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.

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

Athlete: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian (of athletes who are under 18 years of age): \_\_\_\_\_

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