



Singles Officiating Committee

CONCUSSION PROTOCOL FOR CERTIFIED SINGLES REFEREES **

Approved – September 10, 2020

OVERVIEW

A concussion is a traumatic brain injury which can have immediate and/or long term effects on the player. The detection of this injury needs to happen quickly so as to allow proper medical follow up. This brief reference is to help squash Referees who might be faced with such an incident. As a Referee, you are NOT expected to diagnose a concussion, but you are expected to recognize its possibility.

Given that this is a relatively new addition to Referee responsibilities, it's advisable you complete the free presentation offered by the Coaching Association of Canada on this topic (it should take just over an hour). It can be found at: <https://coach.ca/nccp-making-head-way-sport>. On the lower left of that page click the link: Making Head Way eLearning Series. Although the scope of the course is broad and viewed through the lens of coaching (dealing with signs & symptoms, along with post-game recovery, return to training, return to play, legal ramifications, etc.) our guide here will be limited to dealing with on-court incidents.

CONCUSSION RECOGNITION

Signs: *These refer to any outward evidence seen at the moment of the incident or shortly thereafter, such as:*

- The player suffering a blow, fall or collision involving the head
- The player losing consciousness
- The player otherwise exhibiting a slow recovery
- The player experiencing confusion, disorientation, or imbalance
- The player having impaired speech
- The player bleeding from the head
- The player clutching the head
- The player vomiting or having a seizure

Symptoms: *These refer to any evidence expressed by the player after the incident, such as:*

- The player having a headache or pressure in the head
- The player having blurred or double vision
- The player having sensitivity to light or sound
- The player having ringing in the ears
- The player feeling weak or dizzy
- The player feeling tired or drowsy
- The player feeling nausea
- The player expressing “Not feeling right”

REFEREE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Once the Referee suspects a concussion, the player is asked to leave the court for further evaluation. A return to play is allowed only if the player is cleared by the appropriate medical authority.
- If any other person (coach, administrator, opponent, spectator, etc.) makes a request to have the player examined for a possible concussion, this request should be granted if the Referee feels it is based on reasonable grounds.
- The Referee then applies the rules as they would be for bleeding - meaning that the concussion issue must be resolved before the application of any provisions from Rule 14 or Rule 15.

FINAL WORD

As Referees, we must remain aware that while invoking this protocol may lead to the end of the match, a player's long-term health is the greater concern.

** Certified Singles Referees (Club, Local, Provincial & National)