

## **Rowan's Law – Concussion Safety**

The Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport has passed into law [Rowan's Law](#). Rowan's Law, the [legislation](#) and the [regulation](#), is about concussion safety, in particular for **athletes under the age of 26**.

The Ministry of Tourism Culture & Sport have published several age specific concussion resources. These resources are, however, applicable to athletes of all ages.

[Ages 10 & under](#)

[Ages 11 -14](#)

[Ages 15 & older](#)

### **Concussion Code of Conduct for Coaches and Team Trainers**

This is the Ontario Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport Concussion Code of Conduct for coaches & Team Trainers which will be adopted by XCSO to adhere to Rowan's Law which came into effect on July 1, 2019. Items marked with an asterisk \* are mandatory by O. Reg. 161/19: General.

#### **I can help prevent concussions through my:**

- Efforts to ensure that my athletes wear the proper equipment and wear it correctly.
- Efforts to help my athletes develop their skills and strength so they can participate to the best of their abilities.
- Respect for the rules of my sport or activity and efforts to ensure that my athletes do, too.
- Commitment to fair play and respect for all (respecting other coaches, team trainers, officials and all participants and ensuring my athletes respect others and play fair). \*

#### **I will care for the health and safety of all participants by taking concussions seriously. I understand that:**

- A concussion is a brain injury that can have both short- and long-term effects.
- A blow to the head, face, or neck, or a blow to the body may cause the brain to move around inside the skull and result in a concussion.
- A person doesn't need to lose consciousness to have had a concussion.
- An athlete with a suspected concussion should stop participating in training, practice or competition **immediately**.
- I have a commitment to concussion recognition and reporting, including self-reporting of possible concussion and reporting to a designated person when an individual suspects that another individual may have sustained a concussion. \*

- Continuing to participate in further training, practice or competition with a suspected concussion increases a person’s risk of more severe, longer lasting symptoms, and increases their risk of other injuries or even death.

**I will create an environment where participants feel safe and comfortable speaking up. I will:**

- Encourage athletes not to hide their symptoms, but to tell me, an official, parent or another adult they trust if they experience **any** symptoms of concussion after an impact.
- Lead by example. I will tell a fellow coach, official, team trainer and seek medical attention by a physician or nurse practitioner if I am experiencing any concussion symptoms.
- Understand and respect that any athlete with a suspected concussion must be removed from sport and not permitted to return until they undergo a medical assessment by a physician or nurse practitioner and have been medically cleared to return to training, practice or competition.
- For coaches only: Commit to providing opportunities before and after each training, practice and competition to enable athletes to discuss potential issues related to concussions. \*

**I will support all participants to take the time they need to recover.**

- I understand my commitment to supporting the return-to-sport process. \*
- I understand the athletes will have to be cleared by a physician or nurse practitioner before returning to sport.
- I will respect my fellow coaches, team trainers, parents, physicians and nurse practitioners and any decisions made with regards to the health and safety of my athletes.

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

**Coach/Team Trainer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Official:** \_\_\_\_\_

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