



Niagara Catholic District School Board
CONCUSSION ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
STAFF, COACHES, TRAINERS, SUPERVISORS AND VOLUNTEERS

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is committed to student safety, injury prevention and well-being, and supports concussion awareness, prevention, identification, management, tracking, and training in Niagara Catholic schools. The prevention and response to a student concussion requires the cooperation of all partners in the school community, including parents/guardians, students, staff, volunteers and physicians/nurse practitioners.

A student or the parents/guardians of a student who is under 18 years of age who is suspected of having sustained a concussion must provide confirmation that the student has undergone a medical assessment by a physician/nurse practitioner.

When a student is diagnosed with a concussion, a Return to School Plan to support the student's Return to Learn (RTL) and Return to Physical Activity (RTPA) will be created in consultation with the principal, parents/guardians, the student, staff and physician/nurse practitioner.

It is the role and responsibility of staff, coaches, trainers, supervisors and volunteers to:

- be knowledgeable of the [Niagara Catholic Concussion \(303.1\) AOP](#).
- be knowledgeable of the rules and regulations as set by the local athletic association and/or sport governing body
- annually complete concussion training, including Ophea Concussion Prevention, Identification, and Management for Schools e-Learning Module.
- annually review, sign and submit the concussion code of conduct for staff, coaches, trainer, Supervisor, and volunteers to the school principal.
- be knowledgeable of and implement the safe practices included in the [Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education](#).
- ensure parents/guardians have signed the Medical Information, Acknowledgement of Risk and Permission to Participate Form prior to student participation.
- provide students with information on concussion prevention and awareness specific to the activity prior to participating.
- encourage students/athletes to follow rules of play, and to practice fair play and respect for opponents.
- emphasize with students the importance of informing school staff, coaches, trainers, volunteers of any visible signs and symptoms of a concussion and immediately removing themselves from play.
- ensure age-appropriate concussion education, prevention strategies, and the concussion codes of conduct for parents/guardians and students are reviewed and confirmed annually before participation in board sponsored interschool sports.
- follow Ophea safety guidelines, implement injury-prevention strategies, and be able to recognize and respond appropriately to suspected concussions using approved recognition tools.
- ensure that all equipment used is in good condition, certified, and worn appropriately (if applicable).
- ensure that all activities are age-appropriate.
- ensure that skills are taught in order of progression.
- support concussion awareness through curriculum resources such as [Ophea](#) and [Rowan's Law](#) resources, as appropriate.
- provide a copy of the [Tool to Identify a Suspected Concussion and the Concussion Monitoring and Medical Assessment Forms](#) to the student or the parents/guardians of a student who is under 18 years of age who is suspected of having sustained a concussion.
- complete and submit the necessary documentation to the principal when a concussion is suspected.
- support the Return to School Plan-Return to Learn (RTL)/Return to Physical Activity (RTPA).