**Concussion Management and Referral Protocol**

* If the athlete is unconscious for any time period, he/she will be spine boarded and transported immediately to the ER via emergency vehicle.
* Any athlete who has concussive symptoms and who is not stable (condition is changing or deteriorating) must be immediately transported to the nearest ER via emergency vehicle.
* An athlete who exhibits any of the following symptoms should be transported immediately to the nearest ER via emergency vehicle:
  + Deteriorating neurological function; decreasing level of consciousness; decrease or irregularity in respirations; decrease or irregularity in pulse; unequal, dilated, or unreactive pupils; any signs of associated injuries, spine or skulls fracture, or bleeding; mental status changes; seizure activity; cranial nerve deficits
* An athlete that is believed to have a concussion, but is stable, may be managed on the field or in the athletic training room by a certified athletic trainer or the team physician (Dr. Hunt).
  + The ATC will assess the injury, or provide guidance to the coach if unable to personally attend to the athlete.
    - The ATC will perform assessments following recommendations in the NATA Position Statement.
    - The ATC will refer to a physician for further evaluation.
    - The ATC will administer post-concussive testing within 24-48 hours post-injury whenever possible.
    - Repeat concussive tests will be given after the athlete presents with no symptoms for the duration of 24-48 hours from the last symptom.
    - Additional testing will be implemented as needed until athlete achieves a normal test score.
  + If referral to athlete’s primary physician is made, the team physician may be informed of the concussion and **ALL final clearance decisions are made through the team physician and the Evanston Township High School Sports Medicine staff.**
  + The ATC will monitor recovery and coordinate the appropriate return to play activity progression in conjunction with the treating physician; the return to play process may begin once the athlete is asymptomatic and has achieved a normalized ImPACT score.
  + The athlete may return to full practice and competition when he/she has completed the return-to-play process and has been cleared by a member of the Evanston Township High School Sports Medicine team.

***A full version of this protocol is available upon request.***

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