

## School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan)

The Return to Learning (RTL) and Return to Physical Activity (RTPA) Plans have been developed in partnership with Parachute and are based on the most recent research and recommendations of the expert scientific community on concussion, that is the Canadian Guidelines on Concussion in Sport, July 2017 and the Berlin Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport, October 2016. The School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) is for parents/guardians and the school Collaborative Team to communicate and track a student's progress through the stages of the Return to Learning and Return to Physical Activity plans following completion of the Home Concussion Return to School Plan for Return to Learning and Return to Physical Activity. The RTL and RTPA plans are used with the Concussion Protocol.

This section includes:

- Background Information on the Concussion Recovery Process
- General Procedures for a School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan)
- Instructions for a School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan)
- School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan)

### Background Information on the Concussion Recovery Process

A student with a diagnosed concussion needs to follow a Return to School Plan which includes an individualized and gradual Return to Learning (RTL) plan and Return to Physical Activity (RTPA) plan. In developing the Return to School Plan, the RTL process is designed to meet the particular needs of the student, as there is not a pre-set plan of strategies and/or approaches to assist a student returning to their learning activities. In contrast the RTPA plan follows an internationally recognized graduated approach. The management of a student concussion is a shared responsibility, requiring regular communication, between the home, school (Collaborative Team) and sport organizations with which the student is involved and registered with consultation from the student's medical doctor or nurse practitioner and/or other licensed healthcare providers (for example, nurses, physiotherapists, chiropractors and athletic therapists).

There are two parts to a student's RTL and RTPA plan. This first part occurs at home and prepares the student for the second part which occurs at school. The school part of the plan begins with:

- A meeting with the principal/designate to provide the parent(s)/guardian(s) information on:
    - the school part of the RTL and RTPA plan
    - the Collaborative Team participants and parent(s)/guardian(s) role on the team
  - A student assessment to determine possible strategies and/or approaches for student learning
- The home stages of the Return to School Plan for RTL and RTPA (Initial Rest to Stage 2 for RTL and Initial Rest to Stage 2b of RTPA) focuses on a student's progression through the home stages of the RTL and RTPA plan. It has been designed to provide direction for, and documentation of the stages of the RTL and RTPA plan.

### General Procedures for a School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan)

Stages 3a to 4b of the Concussion Return to School Plan for Return to Learning (RTL) and stages 3 to 6 of the Concussion Return to School Plan for Return to Physical Activity (RTPA) focuses on a student's progression through the school stages of the Return to Learning (RTL) plan and Return to Physical Activity (RTPA) plan. It has been designed to provide direction for, and documentation of the stages of the RTL and RTPA Plan.

The school part of the plan begins with:

- A parent/guardian and principal/designate meeting (for example, in-person, phone conference, video conference, email) to provide information on:
  - The school part of the RTL and RTPA plan;
  - The Collaborative Team members and their role (for example, parent/guardian, student, principal/designate, team lead, teacher(s), medical doctor or nurse practitioner and/or appropriate licensed healthcare provider).
- A student conference to determine the individualized RTL plan and to identify:
  - the RTL learning strategies and/or approaches required by the student based on the post- concussion symptoms;
  - the best way to provide opportunities for the permissible activities

The general procedures for return to school are:

- Stages 3a to 4b of the Concussion Return to School Plan for Return to Learning (RTL) and Stages 3 to 6 of the Concussion Return to School Plan for Return to Physical Activity (RTPA) occur at school and where appropriate the RTPA part of the plan may occur at sport practices (for example, student is not enrolled in physical education)
- Inform parent/guardian/student of the importance to disclose a concussion diagnosis with any outside coach/sport organization(s) with which the student is involved or registered.
- Stages are not days – each stage must take a minimum of 24 hours and the length of time needed to complete each stage will vary based on the severity of the concussion and the student.
- Completion of the RTL and RTPA plans may take 1-4 weeks.
- A student moves forward to the next stage when activities at the current stage are tolerated and the student has not exhibited or reported a return of symptoms, new symptoms, or worsening symptoms.
- A student is tolerating an activity if their symptoms are not exacerbated (aggravated, intensified, made worse).
- While the RTL and RTPA stages are inter-related they are not interdependent. A student's progress through the stages of RTL is independent from their progression through the RTPA stages. However, students must have completed Stage 4a and 4b of RTL and Stage 4 of RTPA and have obtained Medical Clearance prior to beginning Stage 5 of RTPA.
- Until a student has successfully completed all stages in the RTL plan they must not participate in the following physical activities where the risk of re-injury is possible:
  - full participation in the physical education curricular program;
  - intramural activities
  - full participation in on-contact interschool activities; or
  - participation in practice for a contact sport.
- A student that has no symptoms when they return to school, must progress through all the RTL stages and RTPA stages and remain symptom free for a minimum of 24 hours in each stage prior to moving to the next stage.
- The plan does not replace medical advice.
- During all stages of RTP and in Stages 1-4 of RTPA:
  - if symptoms return or new symptoms appear, the student returns to previous stage for a
  - minimum of 24 hours and only participates in activities that can be tolerated.
- During stages 5 and 6 of RTPA:
  - If symptoms return or new symptoms appear, the student must return to medical doctor/nurse practitioner to have the Medical Clearance re-assessed.

- During all stages of RTL and RTPA if symptoms worsen over time, follow school (collaborative team procedures) for contacting parents/guardians to inform them that the student needs a follow-up medical assessment.
- Progression through the plan is individual, timelines and activities may vary.
- Upon completion of the RTL and RTPA plans, this form is returned to the principal/designate for filing as per school board's procedures.

**Instructions for the School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan)**

At each stage, the School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) for Return to Learning (RTL) and Return to Physical Activity (RTPA) (hard copy/electronic) will go back and forth between the school and home.

- Review the activities (permitted and not permitted) at each stage prior to beginning the plan.
- The school (for example, teacher, collaborative team lead) provides appropriate activities and records student's progress by checking, dating, initialling completion of each stage and communicating information (form) to parent/guardian.
- Within each stage, the parent/guardian completes, checks, dates and signs the student's tolerance to those activities (that is, no returning, new or worsening symptoms) giving permission for the student to progress to the next stage and returns completed form to school.

## School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan)

The Return to Learning (RTL) and Return to Physical Activity (RTPA) Plans have been developed in partnership with Parachute and are based on the most recent research and recommendations of the expert scientific community on concussion, that is the Canadian Guidelines on Concussion in Sport, July 2017 and the Berlin Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport, October 2016. The RTL and RTPA plans are inter-related however, they are not interdependent. A student's progress through the stages of RTL is independent from their progression through the RTPA stages. Different students will progress at different rates. Before using the School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan), consult the General Procedures and the Instructions for the School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan). The School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) derives from stages 3a to 4b of the Concussion Return to School Plan for Return to Learning and the stages of 3 to 6 of the Concussion Return to School Plan for Return to Physical Activity.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Return to Learning (RTL)

#### Stage 3a

- The student begins with an initial time at school of 2 hours.
- The individual RTL plan is developed by Collaborative Team following the student conference and assessment of the student's individual needs determining possible strategies and/or approaches for student learning.
  - Activities permitted if tolerated by student:
- Activities from previous stage (consult the Concussion Return to School Plan for Return to Learning and the Concussion Return to School Plan for Return to Physical Activity.)
- School work for up to 2 hours per day in smaller chunks (completed at school) working up to a 1/2 day of cognitive activity
- Adaptation of learning strategies and/or approaches
  - Activities that are not permitted at this stage:
    - Tests/exams/homework
    - Music class
    - Assemblies
    - Field trips

#### School Responsibility

- The student has demonstrated they can tolerate up to a half day of cognitive activity.
- The School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) is sent home to parents/guardians.

School Initial (for example, collaborative team lead/designate): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Home Responsibility

- The student has not exhibited or reported a return of symptoms, new symptoms, or worsening symptoms.
- The student has exhibited or reported a return of symptoms, or new symptoms, and must return to the previous stage for a minimum of 24 hours.
- The student has exhibited or reported a worsening of symptoms and must return to medical doctor or nurse practitioner.
- The School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) is sent back to school.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Stage 3b**

- The student continues attending school half time with gradual increase in school attendance time, increased school work and a decrease in the adaptation of learning strategies and/or approaches.
  - Activities permitted if tolerated by student:
    - Activities from previous stage
    - School work for 4-5 hours per day, in smaller chunks (for example, 2-4 days of school/week)
    - Homework – up to 30 minutes per day
    - Decrease adaptation of learning strategies and/or approaches
    - Classroom testing with accommodations
  - Activities that are not permitted at this stage:
    - Standardized tests/exams

**School Responsibility**

- The student has demonstrated they can tolerate up to 4-5 hours of the cognitive activities listed.
- The School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) is sent home to parent/guardian.

**School Initial (for example, collaborative team lead/designate):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Responsibility**

- The student has not exhibited or reported a return of symptoms, new symptoms, or worsening symptoms.
- The student has exhibited or reported a return of symptoms, or new symptoms, and must return to the previous stage for a minimum of 24 hours.
- The student has exhibited or reported a worsening of symptoms and must return to medical doctor or nurse practitioner.
- The School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) is sent back to school.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Stage 4a**

- Full day school, minimal adaptation or learning strategies and/or approaches
- Nearly normal workload.
  - Activities permitted if tolerated by student:
    - Activities from previous stage
    - Nearly normal cognitive activities
    - Routine school work as tolerated
    - Minimal adaptation of learning strategies and/or approaches (start to eliminate adaptation of learning strategies and/or approaches; increase homework to 60 minutes per day; limit routine testing to one test per day with accommodations (for example, supports, such as more time)
  - Activities that are permitted at this stage:
    - Standardized tests/exams

**School Responsibility**

- The student has demonstrated they can tolerate a full day of school and a nearly normal workload with minimal adaptation of learning strategies and/or approaches.
- The School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) is sent home to parent/guardian.

**School Initial (for example, collaborative team lead/designate):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Responsibility**

- The student has not exhibited or reported a return of symptoms, new symptoms, or worsening symptoms.
- The student has exhibited or reported a return of symptoms, or new symptoms, and must return to the previous stage for a minimum of 24 hours.
- The student has exhibited or reported a worsening of symptoms and must return to medical doctor or nurse practitioner.
- The School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) is sent back to school.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Stage 4b**

- At school: full day, without adaptation of learning strategies and/or approaches
  - Activities permitted if tolerated by student:
    - Normal cognitive activities
    - Routine school work
    - Full curriculum load (attend all classes, all homework, tests)
    - Standardized tests/exams
    - Full extracurricular involvement (non-sport/non-physical activity, for example, debating club, drama club, chess club)

**School Responsibility**

- The student has demonstrated they can tolerate a full day of school without adaptation of learning strategies and/or approaches.
- The School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) is sent home to parent/guardian.

**School Initial (for example, collaborative team lead/designate):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Responsibility**

- The student has not exhibited or reported a return of symptoms, new symptoms, or worsening symptoms.
- The student has exhibited or reported a return of symptoms, or new symptoms, and must return to the previous stage for a minimum of 24 hours.
- The student has exhibited or reported a worsening of symptoms and must return to medical doctor or nurse practitioner.
- The School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) is sent back to school for documentation purposes.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Return to Physical Activity (RTPA)

### Stage 3

- Simple locomotor activities/sport-specific exercise to add movement
  - Activities permitted if tolerated by student:
    - Activities from previous stage (20-30 minutes walking/stationary cycling/elliptical/recreational dancing at a moderate pace)
    - Simple individual drills (for example, running/throwing drills, skating drills in hockey, shooting drills in basketball) in predictable and controlled environments with no risk of re-injury
    - Restricted recess activities (for example, walking)
  - Activities that are not permitted at this stage:
    - Full participation in physical education or Daily Physical Activity, participation in intramurals
    - Full participation in interschool practices
    - Interschool competitions
    - Resistance or weight training
    - Body contact or head impact activities (for example, heading a soccer ball)
    - Jarring motions (for example, high speed stops, hitting a baseball with a bat)

#### School Responsibility

- The student has demonstrated they can tolerate simple individual drills/sport specific drills as listed in permitted activities.
- The School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) is sent home to parent/guardian.

School Initial (for example, collaborative team lead/designate): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Home Responsibility

- The student has not exhibited or reported a return of symptoms, new symptoms, or worsening symptoms.
- The student has exhibited or reported a return of symptoms, or new symptoms, and must return to the previous stage for a minimum of 24 hours.
- The student has exhibited or reported a worsening of symptoms and must return to medical doctor or nurse practitioner.
- The School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) is sent back to school.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### Stage 4

- Progressively increase physical activity. Non-contact training drills to add coordination and increased thinking.
  - Activities permitted if tolerated by student:
    - Activities from previous stage
    - More complex training drills (for example, passing drills in soccer and hockey)
    - Physical activity with no body contact (for example, dance, badminton)
    - Participation in practices for non-contact interschool sports (no contact)
    - Progressive resistance training may be started
    - Recess – physical activity running/games with no body contact, Daily Physical Activity

- Activities that are not permitted at this stage:
  - Full participation in physical education
  - Participation in intramurals
  - Body contact or head impact activities (for example, heading a soccer ball)
  - Participation in interschool contact sport practices, or interschool games/competitions (non-contact and contact)

**School Responsibility**

- The student has completed the activities in Stage 4 as applicable.
- The School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) is sent home to parent/guardian.
- A Concussion Medical Clearance Form is sent home to parent/guardian.

**School Initial (for example, collaborative team lead/designate):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Responsibility**

- The student has not exhibited or reported a return of symptoms, new symptoms, or worsening symptoms.
- The student has exhibited or reported a return of symptoms, or new symptoms, and must return to the previous stage for a minimum of 24 hours.
- The student has exhibited or reported a worsening of symptoms and must return to medical doctor or nurse practitioner.
- The School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) is sent back to school.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Before progressing to Stage 5, the student must:
  - have completed Stage 4a and 4b of RTL (full day at school without adaptation of learning strategies and/or approaches)
  - have completed Stage 4 of RTPA and be symptom-free; and
  - obtain a signed medical clearance from a medical doctor or nurse practitioner.
- Please Note: Premature return to contact sports (full practice and game play) may cause a significant setback in recovery

<b>Stage 5</b>
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- Following medical clearance, full participation in all non-contact physical activities (that is, non-intentional body contact) and full contact training/practice in contact sports.
  - Activities permitted if tolerated by student:
    - Physical Education
    - Intramural programs
    - Full contact training/practice in contact interschool sports
  - Activities that are not permitted at this stage
    - Competition (for example, games, meets, events) that involves body contact



**School Responsibility**

- The student has completed the applicable physical activities in Stage 5.
- The School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) is sent home to parent/guardian.

**School Initial (for example, collaborative team lead/designate):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Responsibility**

- The student has not exhibited or reported a return of symptoms, new symptoms.
- The student has exhibited or reported a return of symptoms or new symptoms and must return to medical doctor or nurse practitioner for a Medical Clearance reassessment.
- The School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) is sent back to school.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Stage 6**

- Unrestricted return to contact sports. Full participation in contact sport games/competitions.

**School Responsibility**

- The student has successfully completed full participation in contact sports.
- The School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) is sent home to parent/guardian.

**School Initial (for example, collaborative team lead/designate):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Responsibility**

- The student has not exhibited or reported a return of symptoms or new symptoms.
- The student has exhibited or reported a return of symptoms or new symptoms and must return to medical doctor or nurse practitioner for a Medical Clearance reassessment.
- The School Concussion Management Form (Return to School Plan) is sent back to school for documentation purposes.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_