

Oregon School Activities Association

Baseball SRI Bulletin – #3

March 28, 2016

The OSAA office has received a few inquiries from schools regarding the correct procedures for suspected concussions and players who are bleeding. Thought it would be good to remind everyone how these situations should be handled.

Concussion Management

Rule 3-1 Art.5 ...Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behavior consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the game and not return to the game until cleared by an appropriate health care professional.

The rule appears to be straightforward, but invariably officials struggle with the execution of proper concussion protocol. What specific steps should umpires take in dealing with players who exhibit signs of a concussion? How much time do we allow a team to examine a player on the field before obligating them to remove him from the game? Should we be concerned with the player once he has left the playing field and entered his dugout?

If a player may be concussed (he has banged his head or been hit in the head by a pitched/thrown ball, he is confused about his general surroundings, he is nauseated, his balance is impaired, and/or his eyes appear “glazed over”), you should do the following:

- Stop play. Call in coach or training staff. Umpires should be able to remove themselves from any further decision-making if the coach voluntarily removes the player from the game.
- Give the coach, player and health care staff a “Reasonable amount of time” to assess the injury and/or remove the player. There is not a standard set time; it’s a group effort to restart play at the right time. Just because a player gets hit in the head does not mean they may be concussed. Conversely, a player does not have to lose consciousness to have suffered a concussion.
- Document and instruct both scorebooks to note the time and inning if the player is removed for a suspected concussion.
- If the umpire directs the player to leave the contest, inform the head coach, making sure he understands the player is being removed for a suspected concussion, as opposed to behavior, a non-concussive injury or other issues.
- The responsibility of further evaluation of the student-athlete falls upon the school and its designated health care professional.
- Game umpires do not need written permission for a student athlete to return. Umpires should only be concerned with a simple verbal confirmation from the coach that the player has been “cleared to play.”
- ***Remember that it is always prudent to err on the side of student athlete, “When in doubt, sit ‘em out”.***

Bleeding Player

Rule 3-1 Art.6 A player or coach who is bleeding, or has an open wound, shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered.

- If medical treatment can be administered in a “Reasonable amount of time”, that player shall not have to leave the game.
- The length of time that is considered reasonable is solely the umpire’s judgment. Do not appear anxious to require a substitution; do not be bullied into delaying the game too long.
- If the umpire believes that an undue delay will result from treating the injury the player must leave the game. Re-entry rules apply. Every effort should be made to allow the player to participate.
- If there is any amount of blood on a player’s uniform, the umpire should rule that the player must change or clean his jersey. If the jersey is changed, the umpire shall change the uniform number on the line-up card.

Remember, these rules cannot be ignored. They deal with student athlete safety. Be smart and proactive. These guidelines should always be followed by all umpires on the crew.

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