



FHA Concussion Clinic

Graded Return to Physical Activity Following a Concussion Football Specific Return Protocol

Stage	Objective	
Stage 1 Symptom-Limited Activity	Rest and Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As tolerated, may do up to 30 minutes of light aerobic activity and/or stretching each day. Must stop and rest immediately for any increase in symptoms. Otherwise, NO PE, sports or conditioning.
Stage 2 Light Aerobic Activity	Increase Heart Rate 30-40% of Maximum Heart Rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Minute Walking at 2.5 mph or Stationary Bike without resistance. NO contact, resistance or weight training.
Stage 3 Sport-Specific Exercises	Add Movement 60-80% of Maximum Heart Rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20-30 minute run at 5-6 mph. 2x10 reps of lunges. 2x10 reps of sit ups. 2x10 reps push-ups. Practice individual drills x 15 minutes: can include tire running/high knees, sprint ladder, 40-yard sprints, throwing/kicking the football. Can receive football, but only low passes (below shoulder height). MUST WEAR HELMET AND BE VISIBLY MARKED AS A NON-CONTACT PLAYER!
Stage 4 Non-Contact Training Drills	Exercise, Coordination and Cognitive Load 80% Maximum Heart Rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warm Up (jogging & stretching) x 10-20 minutes. May participate in Noncontact team drills x45 minutes as defined in stage 3. NO HITS! NO TOUCHING ANOTHER PERSON/ BLOCKING DUMMIES! MUST WEAR HELMET AND BE VISIBLY MARKED AS A NON-CONTACT PLAYER! Burpees with a jump x10. <p><i>If conditioning, may resume 50% previous weight.</i></p>
Medical Evaluation and Clearance		
Stage 5 Full Contact Practice	Restore Confidence and Assess Functional Skills by Coaching Staff Reach Full Exertion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full contact practice. May resume hits to blocking dummies & teammates. Wear a helmet and pads as normal. Coaches may choose to limit contact and visibly designate the player as a low contact player. <p><i>If conditioning, may resume 100% previous weight.</i></p>
Stage 6 Full Return to Play	Full Return to Physical Activity and Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full participation in competition.