



## Carolina Jr. Hurricanes Hockey Association Concussion Protocol/Policy

At any point in a game, practice, off ice, etc. where a player has been involved in a physical altercation or where a possible a blow to the head was sustained or any other such contact that indicates a suspected concussion, a coach is required to follow the steps outlined in the Concussion Recognition Tool (CRT5). This tool is located in the Documents section of the Junior Hurricanes website. After following the steps, the coach will be required to act accordingly based on the results:

1. No concussion is suspected – the player may resume normal play
2. A Concussions is suspected – the player **MUST** be immediately removed from play. The parents are informed that the coach suspects a concussion and the players is required is to see a medical professional for further diagnosis
3. Medical Professional deems player not to have suffered a concussion – The medical professional must provide a note using letterhead stating the player has been treated and is deemed not to have suffered a concussion. The player may resume regular games and practices
4. Medical Professional deems player to have suffered a concussion: The player is required to follow the 5 step concussion protocol administered by a professional medical practitioner must complete the USA Hockey Return to Play and submit back to the Org/Coach prior to the player resuming regular games and practices
5. At any point, if a parent suspects a concussion and voluntarily holds their player out of a practice or game, steps 2-4 immediately apply and the player **CANNOT** return until medically cleared by a health professional

**\*\*\*\*\* If there is any hesitation on the coaches part as to whether or not a concussion is suspected, the coach **MUST** err on the side of safety and enact step 2 above\*\*\*\*\***

In the State of NC, if a coach knowingly allows a player back into regular games and practices after a suspected concussion, the coach may be held liable for any further health issues that may result from that condition.

**Therefore, it is the sole responsibility of the coach to make the determination even if the parents at the time of the incident give permission for the player to play.**

The “USA Hockey Return to Play” form is also located in the Documents section of the website.