



CONCUSSION POLICY

1. PURPOSE

Commonwealth Sport Canada (CSC) is committed to safeguarding the health and safety of Individuals involved or participating in the Commonwealth Games or other Commonwealth Sport Canada Events. CSC recognizes that concussions can have significant short-term and long-term consequences on the health and wellness of Individuals. This Policy aims to ensure that Individuals suffering a suspected concussion receive timely and appropriate care and proper management to allow them to return to their sport or activity safely.

2. SCOPE

This Policy addresses concussion related injuries suffered by Individuals during Commonwealth Sport Canada's activities, Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Sport Canada Events.

3. POLICY

- 3.1. In an effort to develop comprehensive and standardized sport-related concussion guidelines, the CSC endorses the *Canadian Guidelines on Concussion in Sport* developed by Parachute Canada and are hereby incorporated into this Policy.
- 3.2. Through the Parachute Canada Guidelines, this Policy addresses the following areas in the prevention, recognition, diagnosis, and management of sport-related concussions.
 - i. Education;
 - ii. Pre-season Clinical Assessment;
 - iii. Concussion Recognition and Removal from Sport for Medical Evaluation;
 - iv. Concussion Assessment;
 - v. Concussion Management;
 - vi. Concussion Care; and
 - vii. Return to Sport.

4. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to this Policy.

“Commonwealth Games” means the major multisport Games, including the Commonwealth Youth Games recognized by Commonwealth Sport Canada.

“Events” mean any activities or events organized by CSC or under CSC's jurisdiction that take place outside of the Commonwealth Games' Period. It includes, for instance, meetings, Annual or Special meetings, high-performance or Games preparation meetings, Canadian Commonwealth Sport Awards, SportWORKS activities & events and/or CSC's partners' activities.

“Games Period” is defined as the period starting with the opening of the Commonwealth Games' Athletes' village until the closing of the Games and when Team Canada Members' accreditation are officially validated by the Games' organizing committee and continue to apply



until the closing of Games or when s/he completes her/his final competition or role at the Commonwealth Games.

“Individuals” mean all individuals engaged in activities, Commonwealth Games and Events with CSC including Team Canada Members, athletes, coaches, team managers, officials, volunteers, suppliers, parents/guardians, directors, officers, members, member representatives and committee members of CSC.

“Team Canada Members” means all individuals selected to the Commonwealth Games Team, including but not limited to Athletes, Coaches, Team Managers, Sport Specific Staff, Mission Staff, Employees, Corporate Sponsors and any other individuals designated by CSC.

5. JURISDICTION AND APPLICABILITY

- 5.1. This Policy applies to Individuals and Team Canada Members participating in the Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Sport Canada Events. This Policy does not apply to concussions suffered by CSC’s staff or volunteers within CSC’s head office, remote workplace or while travelling for CSC’s business or by Individuals involved in other activities or events organized by or under the jurisdiction of other organizations. In particular, it shall not apply to NSO’s activities and programs including any activities, competitions, events, training camps, selection trials related to the Commonwealth Games. This Policy must be adhered to by all stakeholders who interact with the CSC and Team Canada Members including the Health Services Team of the CSC and NSO, Mission Members and NSO Support Team Members.
- 5.2. The CSC is responsible for the implementation of this Policy for all Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Sport Canada Events that fall under its jurisdiction. At the Commonwealth Games, it shall apply for the entire Period of the Games.
- 5.3. Due to the limited timeframe of the Commonwealth Games and the CSC’s limited jurisdiction, NSOs shall be responsible for the partial implementation of this Policy, especially as it relates to concussion education, pre-seasonal assessment, concussion care (if symptoms persist after Games) and return-to sport protocols (if applicable). For this reason, each NSO must adopt its own Concussion Policy and communicate it to the CSC prior to each Commonwealth Games.
- 5.4. Team Canada Members may be subject to other similar policies from the Games rights holder (i.e.: CGF), the Games organizing committee (OC), International Federations (“IF”) or NSOs. This Policy does not intend to replace or repeal such policies. In case of inconsistency between this Policy and the other policies listed herein or any applicable laws, the CSC’s Chief Medical Officer (“CMO”) and any other person designated by the CSC shall decide on which policy should apply and prioritize the policy that would have the highest success in safeguarding the Individual or Team Canada Member’s overall health and wellness. Potential athletic performance and/or medal potential should not be considered when deciding which policy to apply.

During SportWORKS programs, in Canada and out-of-country, local host organization’s health and safety measures and/or local sport organization’s concussions policy and protocols are in effect for all participants during sport activities “on the field of play”. All



SportWORKS hosts providing "on the field of play" sport activities will be required to provide CSC with a copy of their Concussion policy and protocols.

6. DISCLAIMER

6.1. CSC reserves the right to amend this Policy as it deems appropriate and it should be the final authority with respect to the interpretation and implementation of this Policy. The Policy is for convenient reference by the Recipient only, and the CSC makes no representations or warranties regarding the information, advice, example or use of the suggested wordings contained in this Document. Therefore, this document is not intended to replace seeking help from a trained medical professional with concussion expertise.

POLICY HISTORY

Developed	February 2021
Approved:	March 11, 2021

RELATED LINKS

[Concussion – Parachute](#)
[Canadian Guideline on Concussion in Sport \(parachute.ca\)](#)