



CONCUSSION POLICY

1. PURPOSE

Commonwealth Sport Canada (CSC) is committed to safeguarding the health and safety of Team Canada Athletes nominated by CSC to compete at Games. CSC recognizes that concussions can have significant short-term and long-term consequences on the health and wellness of Team Canada Athletes. This Policy aims to ensure that Team Canada Athletes 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 Team Canada Athletes during the Games in which CSC participates as a recognized Commonwealth Games Association (CGA).

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.

“Games” means the major multisport Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games.

“Games Period” is defined as the period during which the Team Canada Athlete is physically present in the Games environment. This Period starts when Team Canada Athlete’s accreditation is officially validated by the Games’ organizing committee and continues to apply until the closing of Games at the latest or earlier, when s/he completes her/his final competition and has left the Games environment.

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



“NSO Activity or Activities” means any activities, competitions, events, training camps, selection trials related or not to the Games organized, sanctioned, recognized or under the jurisdiction of the National Sport Organization (NSO).

“Team Canada Athletes” means all Athletes nominated to the Games Team.

5. JURISDICTION AND APPLICABILITY

- 5.1. This Policy applies to concussions suffered by Team Canada Athletes participating at Games. This Policy does not apply to concussions suffered by Individuals who are not Team Canada Athletes and NSO’s staff and team members. It does not apply to concussions suffered by Team Canada Athletes outside of the Games Period. This Policy must be adhered to by all individuals and stakeholders who interact with CSC and Team Canada Athletes including but not limited to the mission team members and integrated support and health services team of CSC and NSOs.
- 5.2. This Policy does not apply to other activities or events organized or under the jurisdiction of other organizations such as NSO. If a concussion is suspected or occurs during a NSO Activity, it shall be dealt with in accordance with the concussion policy of the applicable NSO.
- 5.3. CSC is responsible for the implementation of this Policy for all Games that fall under its jurisdiction and it shall apply for the entire Period of the Games. Due to the limited timeframe of the Games and 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 that complies with the Canadian Guidelines on Concussion in Sport and communicate it to CSC prior to each 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.

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 CSC makes no representations or warranties regarding the information, advice, example or use of the suggested wordings contained in this Policy. Therefore, this Policy is not intended to



replace seeking assistance from a trained medical professional with concussion expertise.

POLICY HISTORY

Developed	February 2021
Approved:	March 11, 2021
Revised/Approved:	April 22, 2021 (email vote)

RELATED LINKS

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