

SHERWOOD PARK RINGETTE ASSOCIATION

Concussion Management Program

The SPRA has implemented a concussion policy that all member teams must follow. Every adult involved directly with our athletes must be proactive in identifying those athletes who demonstrate symptoms of a sports related concussion. In order to address this pertinent and critical issue, SPRA has drafted the following:

Any athlete who exhibits symptoms, signs or behaviors consistent with concussion following head trauma (as per the POCKET CONCUSSION RECOGNITION TOOL as prepared by the Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport 2012) shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate healthcare provider as per the SPRA Athlete Return to Play Policy.

Athlete wellbeing is the primary focus of this policy and as such it is mandatory that all team officials review and understand this policy. SPRA has taken the necessary steps to educate all team coaches/managers through website resources so that they are familiar with the symptoms of concussion and the necessary steps to be taken when dealing with an athlete who displays possible concussion symptoms. Concussions are a very serious health issue and coaches are encouraged to always err on the side of caution.

SPRA will provide each coach with THE POCKET CONCUSSION RECOGNITION TOOL card to be used by all team officials when evaluating a player who has suffered a head injury and shows any indication of concussion symptoms. If an athlete exhibits any of these concussion symptoms they should be immediately removed from play.

Attached is the “SPRA Return to Play Form” that must be used for any athlete returning from a suspected concussion. This form must be completed by a healthcare professional for any athlete who has been removed from play by a coach for concussion symptoms. A copy of this form must be retained by the team coach/manager and a copy sent to the SPRA Registrar.

It is imperative that all coaches comply with this policy and follow the return to play guidelines to ensure our athletes are not put into game situations before fully recovering from a concussion.