
Dear Parent/Guardian,

Orthopedic Institute is currently implementing an innovative program for the students at your high school. This program will assist our team physicians/athletic trainers in evaluating and treating head injuries (e.g., concussion). In order to better manage concussions sustained by our student-athletes, we have acquired a software tool called ImPACT (Immediate Post Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing). ImPACT is a computerized exam utilized in many professional, collegiate, and high school sports programs across the country to successfully diagnose and manage concussions. If an athlete is believed to have suffered a head injury during competition, ImPACT is used in conjunction with a detailed injury history and comprehensive clinical evaluation to help determine the severity of head injury and when the injury has fully healed.

In order to establish a neurocognitive baseline, the computerized exam is given to athletes before beginning contact sport practice or competition. This non-invasive test is set up in “video-game” type format and takes about 60 minutes to complete. It is simple, and actually many athletes enjoy the challenge of taking the test. Essentially, the ImPACT test is a preseason physical of the brain. It tracks information such as memory, reaction time, speed, and concentration. It, however, is not an IQ test.

If a concussion is suspected, the athlete will be required to re-take the test. Both the preseason and post-injury test data is provided to the Credentialed ImPACT Consultant at Orthopedic Institute to help evaluate the injury. The information gathered can also be shared with your family doctor. The test data in conjunction with a detailed injury history and clinical evaluation will enable these health professionals to determine when return-to-play is appropriate and safe for the injured athlete. If an injury of this nature occurs to your child, you will be promptly contacted with all the details.

Baseline testing will be offered during specific dates at your school through Orthopedic Institute. The test is recommended every other year for high school students. Post-injury testing will be performed at Orthopedic Institute by appointment and will coincide with a doctor appointment; applicable charges will include the cost of the post-injury test as well as a physician office visit. Whereas it is possible to do your baseline at Orthopedic Institute and pursue post-injury testing and care with a Credentialed ImPACT Consultant at a different facility, it is strongly recommended that both the baseline test and any necessary post-injury testing be performed at the same entity. If your insurance or personal preference dictate that you choose care somewhere other than Orthopedic Institute, please consider doing your baseline testing with your institution of preference.

I wish to stress that the ImPACT testing procedures are non-invasive, and they pose no risks to your student. We are excited to implement this program given that it provides us the best available information for managing concussions and preventing potential brain damage that can occur with multiple concussions. Orthopedic Institute and your high school are striving to keep your child’s health and safety at the forefront of the student athletic experience. Please return the attached page with the appropriate signatures. If you have further questions please feel free to contact me at the Orthopedic Institute at (605) 977-6845.

Sincerely,

Brad Pfeifle,
VP of Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Services

Consent Form

For use of the Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing (ImPACT)

I have read the attached information. I understand its contents. I have been given an opportunity to ask questions and all questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

I agree to participate in the ImPACT Concussion Management Program.

School

Printed Name of Athlete

Sport(s)

Signature of Athlete

Date

Signature of Parent

Date