



Concussion

1. Introduction

With recent attention focussed on head injuries and concussion in a sporting context, ECB has issued several fact sheets relating to how it may affect umpires, players and parents. TVCL attempts to distil the main points from these three publications and combine them in a single document reflecting a practical approach which could help clubs, umpires and players, particularly captains, to fulfil the duty of care owed to anybody who is injured in a game and who may suffer concussion.

2. Roles

At the highest level, with fully-qualified umpires and possibly a physio or other suitably qualified person on hand, the situation can be totally different from the lowest parts of the League where there may well be no umpire (or one who is unqualified) and certainly no physio etc. Since it would be essential for somebody to take control it is suggested that **normally** (and assuming there is no physio or medically qualified person present):

- a. Any qualified umpire(s) officiating would take the lead;
- b. If the umpire(s) is/are not qualified they would lead;
- c. If there is no umpire responsibility would fall to the captains – usually the fielding captain who would be on hand immediately.

This can only be a guide and could depend on the circumstances, but it is important for umpires and captains in particular to be aware of their responsibilities.

It is important that the umpire should call 'Dead Ball' immediately and seek whatever medical advice is available without delay.

3. What is Concussion?

- Concussion is a complex and potentially significant brain injury that must be taken seriously. Even a 'ding' or what seems to be a mild bump to the head can be serious. Failure in recognising this can have major immediate and long-term consequences.
- It can be difficult to diagnose as symptoms may take time to develop.
- Ignoring concussion can have long term health implications.

4. Symptoms - Observed (or Reported by Player)

Concentration or memory problems;	Unsure of match, opponent or result
Forgets an instruction	Answers questions slowly
Appears dazed or stunned	Moves clumsily
Nausea or vomiting; Headache	Can't recall events after hit or fall
Just not 'feeling right'	Loss of consciousness
Dizziness, balance problems, blurred or double vision	

5. What Should You Do?

- If you suspect that a player may be showing the signs and symptoms of concussion, it is important that you seek medical advice/instruction. Remember that the player may not be fit to make a decision about his or her own injury and might mistakenly suggest that he/she is OK.
- If you suspect that there is **definite concussion** and do not have available medical support at your game **you will need to seek medical attention/support and most likely will need to attend your nearest A&E or GP immediately**
- Any player with a suspected concussion must be removed from the field of play and undergo stepwise assessments. This can require 15 minutes to assess.
- If there is no medical support available and you have significant concerns you should discuss with the captain(s)
- The player should be rested from both physical and mental activities, as rest is the only known treatment and an early return may provoke symptoms.
- If, as a player, you suspect that you may have the symptoms of concussion tell an umpire or captain. Do not just 'soldier on'.



6. Other Practical Concerns

Personal safety and welfare is the overriding concern and is much more important than the state of a game. It is impossible to cover all possible circumstances in this note but, for example, and as the player will be off the field for a minimum of 15 minutes:

- i. Another batsman or substitute fielder should take the field to allow play to continue.
- ii. If a member of the fielding side accompanies an injured batsman to hospital or is off the field assessing the injury this is a case where the batting side might wish to offer a substitute fielder. This would be wholly in line with the Spirit of Cricket.
- iii. If the last pair is at the wicket when a batsman is injured this can require 15 minutes to assess and play would be interrupted. It is not until the player has been removed from the field and cleared medically that they may return.

If the last batsmen are at the wicket, the Laws provide that the innings would end. However, if the captains and umpires are in agreement, time for an assessment may be permitted and this is a practice that TVCL would encourage.

- iv. While a period of 15 minutes is mentioned frequently in this note, this is a guide to the minimum period needed to assess an injury and if a little more time is needed to be sure it should be allowed.

7. References

ECB Web Pages

- [Players and parents](#)
- [Coaches and umpires](#)
- [Healthcare professionals](#)

ECB Factsheets

[Click here](#) for ECB Concussion Factsheet - Umpires

[Click here](#) for ECB Concussion Factsheet - Coaches

[Click here](#) for the ECB Concussion factsheet for players.

[Click here](#) for the ECB Concussion factsheet for parents.