



Operations Guide

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1. Introduction

Welcome to the Montana Youth Lacrosse Association (MYLA) Seasonal Operations Guide.

This guide will provide useful information relevant to member clubs fielding teams during the regular spring season.

Fees

In order to establish player registration fees, clubs need to know what the team registration fees will be to the MYLA per player and the officials' fees per game for the coming season. Changes to fees for the following season will be posted to the MYLA website by late August to give clubs time to incorporate MYLA fees into their budgets.

Fees paid to the MYLA will be devoted to

for Youth Coaches Education
for Youth Referee Education
for Legal, CPA & MYLA administration
for National Per Diem
for Chapter Promotions/Advertising
for Seed Package/program development
for Youth Championship Tournament support
for other

Team assessments

Team assessment payments, which can be made by credit card or by check, must be paid mailed by April 1st or the team will be assessed a minimum of one forfeit with additional forfeits being added for each day payment is late.

2. Line of Communications

The MYLA provides league structure to member teams, which in turn support lacrosse players, coaches and administrators. It's important to follow the lines of communication when raising an issue or seeking clarification.

Parents and players should first work with their coach. A coach can then contact the program's appointed MYLA delegate, who should be quite familiar with the MYLA's policies. Parents and coaches are encouraged to refer to this document before contacting someone with an issue. If something is not clear or an issue remains unresolved, the program's MYLA delegate or the coach can contact the MYLA's age-level Commissioner for clarification or to discuss an issue.

If necessary, the MYLA Youth Director can then take the issue to the MYLA Board president, who will decide if an issue is appropriate to bring to the MYLA Board. It is our goal to provide as much information as possible in this guide in order to reduce the number of phone calls and emails. That way, we will have more time to better support our member clubs.

MYLA Program Delegates:

Delegates will receive all communications from the MYLA and will in turn distribute the information to the correct person within the program they represent.

MYLA Delegate form: <https://leagueathletics.com/UserForm.asp?RegID=171852&org=montanalax>

MYLA board members will also serve as their program delegates. If a program does not currently have a delegate on the MYLA board, the program must submit a MYLA Delegate form no later than September 1 of each year for MYLA approval.

3. Deadline Calendar

- August: MYLA Annual Board Meeting, Formal submission for new Youth programs
- January 15: Identify field space
- 1 week prior to 1st game: Rosters submitted to League, changes to roster (drop/adds) must be submitted to youth scheduler
- April 1st: League Dues Payment Submitted
- May 1st: Invoices for team fees will be sent out
- The 2nd Weekend Following Memorial Day Weekend is Youth Tournament
- Spring Season: March 1st – June 16th

4. Club Requirements for Ongoing Membership

Club profiles

Each member club is asked to provide a short profile description for the MYLA to post to the website. Club profiles include a short description of the club, the URL to their website, age levels and gender of teams fielded, and important contact information.

New club applications

New club applications are accepted up until August 1st for the following season. The board will review the application at the annual MYLA meeting in August and decide to formally recommend the club be admitted to the league. Clubs interested in joining the MYLA are encouraged to contact the board at any point in the year.

5. Team Registration

Team registration opens November 1. The deadline to register teams with the MYLA is February 1st.

Consequences and process for team withdrawal

The deadline for withdrawal from a MYLA competition is March 15th. If a club withdraws a team from the MYLA after the withdrawal deadline March 15th a fine will be assessed based on the complexity the change. The club may be placed on provisional probation for a length of time to be determined by the MYLA board of directors.

6. Uniform Guidelines

Sponsorships, boys or girls uniforms

Logos or sponsored advertising may be worn on a uniform but may be no larger than 4 inches in either direction for youth teams. It cannot replace the club name or mascot name across the front or back of the jersey. Logos can be in the form of a patch, tackle-twill or screened.

The MYLA board of directors will make final determinations on appropriate logos or sponsorships displayed on uniforms. It is up to each individual club to maintain a suitable logo design and slogan on a youth player's uniform. No references to bars, alcohol, saloons, cigarettes or other inferences inappropriate for youth will be permitted.

Boys' uniforms

The MYLA follows the NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Book – Rules for Youth Lacrosse.

Points of emphasis for youth: a team's game jerseys should be of a single, dominant color with numbers on the front and back of sufficient size to be clearly visible by game officials anywhere on the field. The following are minimum numeral sizes by age group:

- U14 At least 8-inch numerals on the front that shall be centered At least 10-inch numerals on the back that shall be centered

- U12/U10/U8 At least 6-inch numerals on the front that shall be centered At least 8-inch numerals on the back that shall be centered

Girl's uniforms

MYLA follows uniform guidelines for girls as stated in the US Lacrosse Rules.

7. Scheduling Games Game

No-Show vs. Cancellation

For all non-weather or field-related cancellations, a team must submit a formal request for cancellation a minimum of 48 hours prior to start of scheduled game time. A team canceling less than 48 hours before game time will forfeit the game. Forfeited games are to be added into the MYLA website with a score of 1-0. A team that does not show up for a scheduled game will be ineligible to play in any end of season championship, tournament, or end-of-season festival, and no refund will be allowed on any fees.

A team that fails to show up for a scheduled game is also responsible for all officials' fees, as well as field use fees incurred by the home team. Failure to show up for scheduled games, regardless of reason, is not acceptable. A team without enough players will forfeit a scheduled game but the team should proceed with the game as scheduled, by borrowing players if necessary, to be in keeping with the spirit of lacrosse.

In the event that a game must be cancelled for reasonable causes, such as field issues or weather, notice should be given as soon as possible to both the visiting teams' coaches/team managers and officials but no later than 3 hours before the visiting team and officials are likely to depart their home cities. Game

cancellations must be reported to the MYLA president, and within 72 hours of the game, MYLA will accommodate rescheduling if possible. Once officials arrive to the field any game cancellations will be made by them in accordance with the NFHS rule book.

Time between Games

1 hour of rest is encouraged between the end of one team's game and their next game. If both head coaches, head official, and host side (if different from home team) agree to start earlier than the minimum requirement then the game may start at the agreed upon time.

8. Eligibility

Age Eligibility

All programs will base teams upon the USL age-based guidelines. The one exception is the MYLA policy that all 9th graders must play at the High School level. The MYLA does provide a petition process to request specific players participate in a different age group based on physical size, skill level and/or maturity.

USL age group guidelines:

<http://www.uslacrosse.org/rules/age-eligibility-guidelines.aspx>

Gender Eligibility

Any girl, 14U and below, may play on a boys' team only if no girls' team is available to her at her age level in her local club. Boys may not play on a girls' team at any age level.

Transgender Eligibility

MYLA follows US Lacrosse policy on transgender athletes:

<https://www.uslacrosse.org/sites/default/files/public/documents/programs/transgender-policy.pdf>

Policies on Playing Up

As long as the player, parents, coach and club agree that it is in the best interest of the player, then the league will concur and allow a player to play one age level up. However, the decision should not be made lightly. The "playing up" player should be in the top third of the team that he or she is moving up to.

No Playing Down

No player may play on a team at a lower age level. If a club representative, coach and/or parent would like to petition this rule for a very rare exception, petitions are due to the President of MYLA by March 15th.

9. Team Rosters

Team Rosters

Team rosters listing players, coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers can be submitted anytime up to 1 week prior to their team's first game. Rosters may be resubmitted with updates after deadline, and rosters must be full, complete, and accurate, with jersey numbers before the second weekend of games. All rosters must include birthdates and US Lacrosse numbers for every player. Rosters must be uploaded to their club's website no later than 1 week prior to their team's first game.

Team Size Management

If a team has fewer than four substitute players available on the bench at the beginning of a game, the head coach may request relief players from another MYLA team. However, other teams are not required to provide relief players. A relief player should only be used when a rostered player requires rest. In order to prevent stacking a team, coaches shall use best efforts to ensure that relief players are provided on an equal rotation basis similar to a batting order in baseball. All players on a relieving team should be played in relief roles before a given player is used in a relief role a second time. Relief players must be identified when the coaches and referees meet prior to the start of the game and reported to the scorers table.

US Lacrosse Membership

For insurance purposes, the MYLA requires that all players, coaches and assistant coaches be members of US Lacrosse through the end of the season. Clubs tend to collect US Lacrosse membership information in one of three ways:

1. They require players to register directly with US Lacrosse then submit their membership number to their club registrar.
2. Clubs who use League Athletics for registration can build in automatic US Lacrosse membership at the time players register, so they register for the club and US Lacrosse at the same time. (The MYLA highly recommends this approach.)
3. Clubs format a group membership registration form with all players and coach information and submit that to US Lacrosse for group processing. (Be advised this process can take between two to four weeks, so plan accordingly.)

10. MYLA Certified Coach Program

All MYLA coaches must:

- Complete a NCSI background check <http://www.ncsisafe.com/Default.aspx>
- Complete on-line Positive Coaching Alliance course
<http://www.uslacrosse.org/participants/coaches/coaching-educationprogram/positive-coaching-alliance-courses.aspx>
- Complete USL Level-1 coaching on-line course
<http://www.uslacrosse.org/participants/coaches/coaching-educationprogram/online-courses/level-1-online-courses.aspx>
- Sign the MYLA Code of Conduct
<https://leagueathletics.com/UserForm.asp?RegID=176114&org=montanalax.org>

All four requirements must be completed prior to the season.

Prior to a second consecutive season of coaching, all MYLA coaches must complete a USL Level-1 on-field course thus becoming fully USL Level-1 certified. If a second year coach does not fully complete the USL Level-1 certification they are no longer able to coach. All coaches must be certified to be at any team event, games practices, etc. Individual clubs are required to check all of their coaches USL coaching documentation.

11. Sportsmanship & Code of Conduct

Sportsmanship is an integral part to the growth of the game both on and off the field. The MYLA has identified educating, promoting and encouraging of good sportsmanship as a priority, in an effort to continue the development of the proper culture and spirit of the game.

As the sport continues to grow throughout our region, the MYLA believes it is important to always instill the best values in and set positive goals for players. In doing so, our lacrosse community must reward those that “Compete with Class and Honor the Game” as well as enforce the rules and promote sportsmanship; otherwise, the integrity of the game will suffer.

All players must sign the Code of Conduct document as well as a player’s parent or guardian. The signatures indicate each person has read and agrees to the Code of Conduct and knows that the consequences of violating one of the stated rules may include ejection from the event/game. The MYLA Board of Directors or designee will be notified of any ejection.

Signed codes of conduct forms are to be kept by each club, and are to be made available to MYLA upon request.

The official’s jurisdiction extends from 30 minutes before the game until the officials leave the playing venue. Officials should be on the field and be in charge of the game 30 minutes prior to game time. If a situation occurs after the game ends and before the officials leave the playing venue and offending conduct would warrant an ejection during Page 12 game, the official(s) can issue a post-game ejection to the offending player, parent, or coach to be served in the team’s next game.

Ejections

The first time a player is ejected from a game he/she is barred from playing in the next game. The second time the same player is ejected from a game; he/she is barred from playing the next three games. A third ejection will result in expulsion for the remainder of the season. This rule does not apply in the case of a player's disqualification from the current game. The disqualified player may no longer participate in the current contest. They can remain in uniform within the team box during the remainder of the game. Disqualification does not limit the player's participation in future games.

A parent who is ejected from a game must immediately leave the field and surrounding area and will be barred from attending his/her child's next game. If a parent is ejected from a game a second time, he/she is barred from attending his/her child's games for the rest of the season.

A coach who is ejected from a game must leave the field immediately and is barred from coaching the next game. If a coach is ejected from a game a second time, he/she is barred from coaching any team in the MYLA for the remainder of the season.

Any game may be suspended, or end in a forfeit, at the officials' discretion if, in their judgment, disruptions to their ability to conduct the game safely and honorably are not satisfactorily resolved.

Sportsmanship Incident Reporting

This policy dictates how incidents must be reported and how reports will be administered by the MYLA Board.

Sportsmanship Incident Policy:

<https://leagueathletics.com/Page.asp?n=141260&org=montanalax>

Sportsmanship Incident Reporting Form:

<https://leagueathletics.com/UserForm.asp?RegID=131839&org=montanalax>

Enforcement

An official's authority extends 30 minutes before and up until they leave the playing venue after the game. They may eject players, parents, or coaches off the field or from the surrounding venue within that window of time.

When Games Run Long

The MYLA encourages all participants to be patient when games run long. Every effort is made to keep to game day schedules, but unforeseen issues may arise. Model good sportsmanship and be respectful of teams, spectators, and officials as they finish their games.

Offensive Language Rule Adoption

An official shall eject from the game any player, substitute, non-playing member of a team, coach, assistant coach or anyone officially connected with a competing team or fan using a racial slur or derogatory term related to race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, or ethnicity or offensive language.

A coach or assistant coach ejected by an official for using a racial slur or derogatory term related to race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, or ethnicity or offensive language shall be immediately suspended from coaching any MYLA team for the remainder of the season.

Any player that is ejected twice in a season by an official for using a racial slur or derogatory term shall be suspended from playing in the MYLA for the remainder of the season.

In the event that a racial slur or derogatory term is not heard by the official, the offended player(s) should inform their coach at the earliest possible time. At the next official time out, the coach should inform the head official, who should in turn inform the opposing coach of the allegation. The offended player(s) and any others who heard the comments are encouraged to file a Sportsmanship Incident report with the MYLA as soon as possible after the game, which gives the MYLA a basis to conduct an investigation and take action as deemed appropriate.

Coaches are encouraged to discuss this rule with their players.

12. Sideline Managers

Each youth lacrosse team will be asked to provide a designated Sideline Manager (one adult per team, on site, per game-day contest) to help encourage, maintain and manage the sportsmanlike behavior of spectators and fans. **Sideline Managers will become a requirement in the 2020 season and thereafter.** These adults would be responsible for insuring that the spectators and fans support the athletes, coaches and officials in a positive manner and refrain from behavior not in conformity with the US Lacrosse Code of Conduct. The Sideline Managers will receive training prior to these contests by reviewing the document 'Sideline Manager Job Description' provided by US Lacrosse and the US Lacrosse - Positive Coaching Alliance, available online, or by requesting a paper copy of this document through the Page 14 MYLA. Sideline managers will introduce themselves to the officials and coaches prior to the coin toss, and follow those procedures outlined in the Sideline Manager Job Description, found at the referenced US Lacrosse website location. Sideline Managers will notify an unruly fan or spectator that unsportsmanlike behavior may lead to ejection and/or a game cancellation by the officials.

Clubs are encouraged to provide sideline managers with clothing that identifies their position to participants and the public.

13. Scoring and Statistics

Clubs are required to report the scores of all MYLA (12U and up) games to the league website. Clubs are encouraged to keep an official scorebook for the purposes of educating players and coaches.

16. Tournaments & Championships

Youth Tournaments

- Youth tournaments can only be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- Youth games will adhere to the MYLA timing per their age groups.

Applications for hosting the state tournament should be submitted by the November board meeting. They MYLA will announce the site of the state tournament in December.

State Youth Tournament: The MYLA Board will vote on the structure and guidelines of the Youth State Tournament by March 1 of each year.

17. Concussion Protocol

MAHA has formally adopted the USA Lacrosse Concussion Management Program and associated educational materials as its concussion management program. These educational materials include Facts For Athletes Concussion document, Coaches Facts For Athletes Concussion document, Concussion Management Plan Poster and some other concussion-related information. We are asking all parents and guardians to review these materials with their player. These materials can be found at montanalax.org.

Each season, players and parents will be asked to acknowledge that they have received and reviewed these materials prior to the start of the season. Players and parents and coaches will be required to submit signed forms and certificates of completion to your local Chapter (who will then pass copies to team managers, officials etc) who will keep them on file for one year. Copies will also be emailed to the MYLA Risk Manager for state filing. These forms can be found at montanalax.org and in this operations guide.

Coaches must remove any youth athlete suspected of having sustained a concussion from all lacrosse activities immediately. The athlete may only return to practice or competition when the organization receives written authorization from a licensed healthcare provider. The association must retain the release for the entire time the athlete is registered with the organization, or until the athlete reaches 18. MYLA affiliated clubs, associations, coaches and administrators each have a responsibility in dealing with, reporting and retaining records of players with concussion symptoms.

A concussion is a brain injury. Concussions may be caused by a blow to the head, neck or body. There is no such thing as a mild concussion. You can't see a concussion. Signs and symptoms of a concussion can appear right away. However, they may not appear until hours or days after the injury has occurred. If your child reports any symptoms of a concussion or a coach, official, teammate or parent observes any symptoms seek immediate medical attention.

Concussions can cause serious and long-term damage to young players if not treated properly. We urge you to review the materials and become familiar with the symptoms of concussions. Concussion awareness is part of our coaching education program, but many times a player's symptoms may not show until after the player has left the arena for home. Parents also need to be aware of how to identify the symptoms and learn what to do in the case you suspect a player has sustained a concussion.

Concussion Protocol

Parent/Athlete Acknowledgement Form

Season: _____ Association: _____

Athlete Name (Print): _____

Program: _____ Level of Play: _____

1. I understand that Montana Youth Lacrosse Association, affiliate of US Lacrosse has adopted concussion-related education, awareness and protocol into their policies and procedures.
2. I understand the following guidelines and protocol exist, and will respect them if they must be instituted with the above-named athlete:
 - a. An athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury shall be immediately removed from participation for the remainder of the day. Removal can be at the request of a coach, official, team manager, parent/guardian, or the athlete.
 - b. Athlete shall not be permitted to return to participation until he/she is evaluated and released by a medical professional trained in the management of concussions and acting within the scope of his/her practice.
 - c. An athlete removed from participation for evaluation shall not be permitted to return to participation until a medical release by an appropriate medical professional (trained in the management of concussions and acting within the scope of his/her practice) is provided to the team manager.
3. Should it be determined that above-named athlete needs to be removed from participation, I/we understand that the protocol outlined herein must and will be followed for the safety of the athlete.
4. I/we understand that if a suspected concussion has occurred and protocol has been enacted for the above-named athlete, there is no review period or negotiation as to the course of action and return to participation outside of the recommendations of the evaluating medical professional who has been selected to treat the athlete.
5. I/we understand that if I/we suspect the above-named athlete has experienced a concussion or exhibits behavior that suggests concussion-like symptoms, I/we have the authority to remove the athlete from participation and begin the concussion protocol with a medical professional of my/our selection who meets the criteria of an acceptable evaluator.

By the signature/s below, I/we acknowledge responsibility for the above-named athlete in the current season and agree to all the information stated herein.

Athlete

Date

Parent/Guardian

Date

Concussion Protocol Coach Acknowledgement Form

Season: _____ Association: _____

Coach Name (Print):

Program: _____ Team(s): _____

1. I understand that Montana Youth Lacrosse Association affiliate of US Lacrosse has adopted concussion-related education, awareness and protocol into their policies and procedures.
2. I understand the following guidelines and protocol exist, and will respect them if they must be instituted for any athlete on the team:
 - a. An athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury shall be immediately removed from participation for the remainder of the day. Removal can be at the request of a coach, official, team manager, parent/guardian, or the athlete.
 - b. Athlete shall not be permitted to return to participation until he/she is evaluated and released by a medical professional trained in the management of concussions and acting within the scope of his/her practice.
 - c. An athlete removed from participation for evaluation shall not be permitted to return to participation until a medical release by an appropriate medical professional (trained in the management of concussions and acting within the scope of his/her practice) is provided to the team manager.
3. Should it be determined that an athlete needs to be removed from participation, I understand that the protocol outlined herein must and will be followed for the safety of the athlete.
4. I understand that if a suspected concussion has occurred and protocol has been enacted for an athlete, there is no review period or negotiation as to the course of action and return to participation outside of the recommendations of the evaluating medical professional who has been selected to treat the athlete.

By the signature below, I acknowledge and agree to all the information stated herein.

Name

Date

MYLA Concussion - Return to Participation Medical Release

If an athlete sustains a concussion during athletic participation, or sustains an injury and exhibits the signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, the athlete must be immediately removed from all athletic participation. The athlete may only return to physical activity if/when the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and receives the following written clearance to return to sport.

The following athlete has been evaluated and diagnosed with a concussion by a medical professional trained in the evaluation of concussions. The following steps must be completed under the supervision of a medical professional (MD, DO, PA, Advanced Practice Nurse) who **IS TRAINED IN THE EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CONCUSSIONS.** This form must be signed by the above referenced medical professional and returned to the league, organization, or athletic trainer for the athlete to return to participation.

Athlete Name: _____ **DOB:** ____/____/____

Injury Date: ____/____/____ **Sport:** _____ **Level (HS, 14U, 12U, etc.)** _____

Mechanism of Injury : _____

Symptoms upon evaluation: _____

Sideline evaluation completed: Yes No

Evaluation completed by: _____

In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Return-to-Sport Strategy begins with Return-to-Learn (successfully tolerating school- resumption of full cognitive workload) and there is a six step process gradually returning the athlete to normal activities. There is a minimum 24-hour period between each step. If at any time the athlete's concussion symptoms reoccur, they must return to the previous asymptomatic level and reattempt progression after a further 24 hour period of rest has passed.

Graduated Return-to-Sport (RTS)- *(For Lacrosse specific Return-to-Sport progression refer to the back of this page)*

An initial period of 24-48 hours of both relative physical rest and cognitive rest is recommended before beginning RTS progression.

Stage 1 – Symptom limited activity (Daily activities that do not provoke symptoms)

Stage 2 – Light aerobic exercise (Walking or stationary cycling at slow to medium pace. No resistance training)

Stage 3 – Sport-specific exercise (Running or skating drills. No head impact activities)

Stage 4 – Non-contact training drills (Harder training drills, e.g., passing drills. May start progressive resistance training)

Stage 5 – Full-contact practice with MEDICAL CLEARANCE (Participate in normal training activities)

Stage 6 – Return to sport (Normal game play)

I (treating MD/DO/PA/Advanced Practice Nurse) certify that the a fore mentioned athlete has completed the above Return to Sport Strategy and is cleared for full contact drills and training, and, **IF ASYMPTOMATIC**, may return to competition.

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **Today's Date:** _____

I (parent/guardian) attest that my child has successfully completed the full Return to Sport Strategy as outlined above and has been cleared to return to participation by a medical professional **trained in concussion management.** I understand that sports are inherently dangerous and realize that concussions are an injury that can occur. I also understand that this process/protocol is in place to protect my child, that any deviation from this process/protocol is under my volition, and I take full responsibility for any and all consequences of that decision.

Parent/Guardian name: _____

Signature: _____

Phone: _____ **Today's Date:** _____

A Graduated Return-to-Sport Strategy – Lacrosse

Stage #	Aim	Lacrosse Specific Activity	Goal of each step
Initial period of 24-48 hours of both relative physical & cognitive rest is recommended before beginning the Return to Sport Progression			
1	Symptom limited activity	Daily activities that do not provoke symptoms	Gradual reintroduction of work/school activities
If symptoms re-emerge with this level of exertion, then return to previous stage. If the student remains symptom free for 24 hours after this level of exertion then proceed to the next stage.			
2	Light aerobic exercise	Walking, swimming, stationary cycling at slow to medium pace. No resistance training	Add light aerobic activity with an increased heart rate and monitor for symptom return
If symptoms re-emerge with this level of exertion, then return to previous stage. If the student remains symptom free for 24 hours after this level of exertion then proceed to the next stage.			
3	Sport-specific exercise	Running drills with no head contact	Increase aerobic activity and monitor for symptom return
If symptoms re-emerge with this level of exertion, then return to previous stage. If the student remains symptom free for 24 hours after this level of exertion then proceed to the next stage.			
4	Non-contact lacrosse specific drills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harder training drills, Running forwards & backwards, stick handling, face off, passing, shooting, shadow positioning without other players, goal keeper positioning • May begin progressive resistance training 	Exercise, coordination and increased thinking and monitor for symptoms
If symptoms re-emerge with this level of exertion, then return to previous stage. If the student remains symptom free for 24 hours after this level of exertion then proceed to the next stage.			
5	Full-contact practice (after medical clearance)	Following medical clearance, participate in normal training activities	Assess frequently during line changes, monitor for symptoms
If symptoms re-emerge with this level of exertion, then return to previous stage. If the student remains symptom free for 24 hours after this level of exertion then proceed to the next stage <i>with physician clearance.</i>			
6	Return to Sport	Normal game play	Fully back to sport

McCrory P, et al. Br J Sports Med 2017;0:1-10.doi:10.1136/bjssports-2017-097699. May KH, Marshall DL, Burns TG, Popoli DM, Polikandriotis JA. PEDIATRIC SPORTS SPECIFIC RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES FOLLOWING CONCUSSION. *International Journal of Sports Physical Therapy*. 2014;9(2):242-255.

****A neurocognitive post-injury test should be administered once the athlete is experiencing no symptoms, and always before the athlete begins contact drills. When referring to the Return-to-Sport Strategy above, a neurocognitive post-injury test should be administered before stage 5 of the progression, and only if the athlete is asymptomatic.**