

NBBL Concussion Awareness and Return to Play Policy

Applies to all NBBL sponsored basketball activities at the Gilbert Showcase Gym and any other NBBL location.

Effective date: September 10, 2026

NBBL will prioritize participant safety whenever a concussion or other traumatic brain injury is suspected. This policy is designed to satisfy the LIO traumatic brain injury endorsement requirement for a written awareness and safety program communicated to participants, parents, and coaches. It does not replace medical judgment. When in doubt, the participant sits out.

Who must receive and acknowledge this policy

- Every participant before their first NBBL activity each annual season.
- A parent or legal guardian for every minor participant, who must sign the TBI acknowledgment.
- Every coach, trainer, team or club organizer, volunteer with player supervision responsibilities, and NBBL event lead before working with participants.

Recognition of possible concussion

A concussion may occur after a blow, bump, or jolt to the head or body. Symptoms can appear immediately or later. Possible signs include headache or pressure in the head, nausea or vomiting, dizziness, balance problems, blurred or double vision, sensitivity to light or noise, confusion, slowed response, memory difficulty, unusual behavior, irritability, drowsiness, loss of consciousness, or a participant reporting that they do not feel right.

Immediate removal and response

Step	Required action	Responsible person
1 Remove	Immediately remove the participant from play, practice, training, showcase, or other athletic activity when a concussion is suspected. Do not allow same day return unless a qualified health care provider evaluates the participant and rules out a concussion at that time.	Coach, official, NBBL event lead, qualified provider, or parent removing own child.
2 Protect	Do not leave the participant alone. Keep the participant away from play, exertion, driving, and activities that create a second injury risk. Call 911 for emergency warning signs.	NBBL event lead and supervising adult.
3 Notify	Notify the parent or guardian immediately for a minor. Notify adult participant and emergency contact as appropriate. Document the incident before the end of the event day.	NBBL event lead.
4 Refer	Recommend prompt evaluation by a licensed health care provider trained in concussion management. Provide the participant or parent with the incident record and this policy.	NBBL event lead.
5 Hold out	No later day return until NBBL receives valid written clearance from a licensed physician stating that the participant may return to play.	NBBL program administrator.

Emergency warning signs

Call 911 or seek emergency medical care immediately for worsening headache, repeated vomiting, seizure or convulsion, loss of consciousness, increasing confusion or agitation, slurred speech, weakness or numbness, unequal pupils, unusual behavior, inability to recognize people or places, neck pain with neurological symptoms, or another condition that appears life threatening.

Return to play requirements

- A participant with a suspected concussion may not return to any NBBL athletic activity on a later day until NBBL receives written clearance from a licensed physician stating that the participant is permitted to return to play.
- Clearance must identify the participant, date, physician name and credentials, return to play authorization, and any restrictions. NBBL will retain it with the incident record.
- NBBL may require a gradual return under written restrictions. New symptoms require immediate removal and a new medical evaluation.
- A coach, parent, volunteer, or participant may not override this rule. NBBL will not accept verbal clearance, a generic note without return to play authorization, or clearance from an unauthorized person.

Records and implementation

NBBL will retain the signed annual acknowledgment, incident report, parent or adult notice, and written medical clearance. Records must be available to the insurer upon request. The program administrator will promptly notify management and the insurance broker or carrier when a reportable injury or claim may exist. Before each season, NBBL will train relevant staff and coaches on signs, removal authority, emergency response, documentation, parent communication, and clearance verification. NBBL will maintain an incident report form, acknowledgment record, clearance log, emergency contacts, and emergency procedures at each activity.

Acknowledgment language for Smartwaiver

Required checkbox: "I received, read, and understand the NBBL Concussion Awareness and Return to Play Policy. I understand that a suspected concussion requires immediate removal from activity, parent or guardian notification for a minor, and written licensed physician clearance before return to play on a later day."