

CONCUSSION POLICY

Golf Ontario recognizes that participation in any sport or physical activity has some inherent risk of head impact or a Concussion. Golf Ontario takes the health and safety of people playing or participating in its Events seriously and recognizes that Concussions are a significant public health issue because of their potential short, or longer term, consequences.

Purpose and Scope

This Policy and related protocols provides information for Players and Participants respecting Golf Ontario's efforts to recognize and manage Concussions or Suspected Concussions. Golf Ontario aims to ensure that Players or Participants with a Concussion or Suspected Concussion receive appropriate care and timely information following a head impact. Government legislation, if any, applicable in the jurisdiction of the Event supersedes this Policy and protocols where applicable.

Definitions: In this Policy the following terms have the following meanings:

- (a) "Concussion" is a brain injury that causes changes in how the brain functions;
- (b) "Concussion Symptoms" can be physical, cognitive, emotional/behavioral and/or sleep-related as more particularly set out in the current Concussion Recognition Tool; (f)
- (c) "Event" means a Golf Ontario sponsored function, including golf competitions;
- (d) "Golf Ontario Representative" means the Tournament Director, Tournament Chair or the Tournament Rules Chair;
- (e) "Participant" means a person who is involved in an Event and includes a caddie for a Player, a Golf Ontario staff member, or a volunteer designated by Golf Ontario or the host facility to assist at the Event;
- (f) "Player" means a person who is registered and participating in an Event;
- (g) "Policy" means this Golf Ontario Concussion Policy and related protocols; and
- (h) "Suspected Concussion" means a person who appears to have either experienced an injury or impact that may result in a Concussion, or is exhibiting unusual behaviour that may be the result of Concussion.

Concussion Prevention

The risk of concussions occurring can be reduced by the proper implementation of prevention strategies:

- a) Concussion awareness and education – Golf Ontario will make concussion awareness Golf Ontario.
- b) Safe participation environment – Golf Ontario-sanctioned event and activity venues will be properly prepared and free of hazards.
- c) Fair play and respect for opponents – these ethical values should be encouraged in all activities.



Concussion Recognition and Management Procedures

This Policy and the Golf Ontario Concussion Protocol will be implemented at Golf Ontario Events. Any case of a Concussion or a Suspected Concussion will be reported to the Golf Ontario Representative to ensure prompt access to the affected Player or Participant.