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;
(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

resources available on their public websites, including this Policy and related protocols.

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.

Concussion Protocol

If, following a head impact, the Player or Participant is:

1. Unconscious, the Golf Ontario Representative will:
    a. call 911 for emergency medical assistance and contact any medical personnel available on site;
    b. stay with the individual until medical services arrive;
    c. try to ensure that the individual is not moved, other than as required for airway support or if there is imminent danger;
    d. monitor and document any physical, emotional and/or cognitive changes;
    e. attempt to contact the designated primary emergency contact to inform them that emergency medical services have been contacted to assist the individual and the then current location and status of those emergency services.
2. Conscious following a period of unconsciousness, however short, or has not lost consciousness, the Golf Ontario Representative will, if medical personnel are not available on site:
    a. attempt to determine if any red flags or symptoms of a Concussion or Suspected Concussion (as set out in the current Concussion Recognition Tool) exists and, if so, recommend that the individual permit a call for medical assistance or seek medical assessment at the earliest opportunity;
    b. if, considering the provisions of the current Concussion Recognition Tool, the individual does not present any signs of a Concussion or Suspected Concussion it is reasonable to permit the individual to continue play; however, if the individual does not co-operate in evaluating the possibility of a Concussion or displays Concussion Symptoms and refuses medical assistance or assessment, recommend that the individual leave the playing area and rest for at least 1 hour of observation in a dark quiet area;
    c. attempt to notify the designated primary emergency contact and advise of the individual's current status;
    d. arrange for or confirm that the individual has a ride home; and
    e. encourage a medical assessment.

Incident Reporting

The Golf Ontario Representative will complete a detailed Incident Report and provide the same to the Tournament Director prior to the end of that days competition.

Communication

The Tournament Director shall, where possible, contact the individual (or the parent or guardian if a minor) within 7 to 10 days following the incident to inquire as to the status of the individual and to determine whether or not medical attention or assessment has resulted.

Policy Review

Golf Ontario will review this policy on an annual basis.

Appendices

Current Concussion Recognition Tool