



## **NFNL Concussion Reporting Procedure 2024**

The NFNL has developed the following concussion reporting procedure to reinforce the fundamental importance of our league's Concussion Policy, as outlined in Section 19 of the [National Community Football Policy Handbook \(AFL Guidelines for The Management of Sport-Related Concussion\)](#). The reporting procedure serves as a beacon of our commitment to player welfare, setting forth essential guidelines derived from the AFL's best practices in concussion management.

At the core of these guidelines lies a clear directive: the safety and well-being of our athletes take precedence above all else. To this end, the NFNL mandates two critical tasks when a suspected concussion occurs: **Concussion Reporting** and **Return to Play Clearance**.

**Concussion Reporting** ensures notification to the NFNL following any incident of suspected concussion, whether in a fixtured match or during a training session. This timely reporting enables us to initiate appropriate measures, safeguarding the player's health.

**Return to Play Clearance** underscores our commitment to player safety. No player shall return to NFNL Football competitions without explicit clearance from a qualified medical practitioner. This requirement mitigates the risk of exacerbating the player's condition and upholds the highest standards of player welfare.

As per the guidelines, a player diagnosed with concussion must successfully complete the 21-day minimum return-to-play (RTP) protocols and adhere to the [AFL Concussion Management Return-to-Play Flow Chart](#) before returning to play.

*It's important to highlight that the responsibility lies with clubs to provide precise concussion reports to the NFNL. In the event of inaccurate reporting, any ensuing legal actions would be directed towards the club and its leadership.*

### **Concussion Reporting**

All Clubs are required to notify the NFNL following a fixtured round of matches if a player has had a suspected concussion. As a guide, the NFNL expects to be notified within 72 hours of the incident taking place.

Clubs can notify the League via the [NFNL Concussion Reporting Form \(click here\)](#).

Details of the suspected concussion must be provided to the NFNL. As per the guidelines, a suspected concussion can be determined using the following methods;

- For non-medically trained individuals, the [Concussion Recognition Tool 6 \(CRT6\)](#) or the [Headcheck App](#) can be used.
- For Health Care Professionals (HCPs), the [Sports Concussion Assessment Tool \(SCAT6\)](#) can be used.

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### **Northern Football Netball League**

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## Return to Play Clearance

As part of the mandatory concussion reporting, clubs are required to report to the NFNL when a player has received medical clearance following a concussion or suspected concussion.

**Players are not permitted to play in NFNL Football or Netball competitions unless medical clearance has been provided via this form.**

A Medical Certificate (such as [AFL Return to Play Clearance Form](#)) must be completed by a medical practitioner and submitted to the NFNL.

Clubs can complete the NFNL online [Return to Play Clearance form here \(click here\)](#).

**If a player has sustained a concussion, they must follow the 21-day minimum return-to-play (RTP) protocols. Under no circumstances can a player who has sustained a concussion participate before completing these protocols.**

### Summary:

1. **Suspected Concussion Identification:**
  - Use CRT6, Headcheck App (non-medical personnel) or SCAT6 (healthcare professionals).
2. **Immediate Reporting of suspected concussion via online NFNL Concussion Reporting Form:**
  - Notify NFNL within 72 hours of the incident.
3. **Medical Evaluation:**
  - Ensure the player is evaluated by a qualified medical practitioner.
    - A. If a qualified medical practitioner clears a player of concussion:**
      1. Ensure a Medical Certificate is obtained.
      2. Complete the online NFNL Return to Play Clearance form.
    - B. If a concussion is sustained:**
      1. Player must enter the 21-day minimum return to player protocols.
4. **Graded Return to Play:**
  - Ensure the player follows the 21-day minimum return-to-play protocol.
  - Ensure the Graded Return to Play/Sport Framework is followed.
5. **Medical Certificate:**
  - Obtain a Medical Certificate once the individual is free of symptoms and has completed the grading loading program without any recurrence of symptoms or signs.
6. **Submit Clearance Form:**
  - Complete and submit the online NFNL Return to Play Clearance form online.

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### Useful Resources:

- [AFL Guidelines for The Management of Sport-Related Concussion](#)
- [AFL Concussion Management Return-to-Play Flow Chart](#)
- [Headcheck App](#)
- [Concussion Recognition Tool 6 \(CRT6\)](#)
- [Sports Concussion Assessment Tool \(SCAT6\)](#) (for use by healthcare practitioners)
- [AFL Return to Play Clearance Form](#)
- [AFL First Aider: Concussion & Injury Management in Community Football Module](#)

### NFNL Forms:

- [NFNL Concussion Reporting Form \(click here\)](#)
- [Return to Play Clearance form here \(click here\)](#)

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