

WBFL – CONCUSSION AWARENESS FORM

The State of Florida has passed a new law, Florida Statute 943.0438, which is effective July 1, 2012. This statute requires the parent or guardian of the child who will be participating in organized sports activities to sign an informed consent form that explains the nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including the risk of continuing to play after a concussion or head injury. This form must be submitted to West Boynton Football League prior to any field activities sponsored by the Club. A new informed consent form must be submitted each season for each child.

CONCUSSION INFORMATION:

A concussion is an injury that changes how the cells in the brain normally work. It is caused by a blow to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. Even a slight hit or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious. Concussions can also result from a fall or from players colliding with each other or with obstacles, such as a goalpost, even if they do not directly hit their head.

To help recognize a concussion, you should watch for the following things among our players:

A forceful blow to the head or body that results in rapid movement of the head and any change in the athlete's behavior, thinking, or physical functioning
Player appears stunned and or confused about their position
Forgets sports plays and/or unsure of themselves, the score, opponents and own team members
Answers questions slowly or can't recall events prior to being hit or falling down
Headache or pressure in the head, nausea or vomiting, balance problems or dizziness
Double or blurry vision, sensitivity to light and noise. Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
Concentration or memory problems, confusion or states: "just does not feel right"

Under Florida law, the player who has suspected concussion or head injury must be removed from play or practice. Before the player may return to practice or competition a written medical clearance to return stating that the youth athlete no longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or other head injury must be received from an appropriate health care professional trained in the diagnosis, evaluation, and management of concussions. In Florida, an appropriate health-care professional is defined as either a licensed physician, a licensed osteopathic physician (DO, as per Chapter 459, Florida Statutes), a licensed physician assistant under the supervision of a MD/DO (as per Chapters 458.347 and 459.022, Florida Statutes) or health care professional trained in the management on concussions.

As a parent or guardian, I have read and understand this consent form, and I give permission for my child to participate in the West Boynton Football League program for the 2013 Season.

Player Name _____ TEAM/DIVISION: _____

As a parent or guardian, I have read and understand this consent form and I give permission for my child, named above, to participate.

Parent/Legal Guardian Name _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____