



Approved January 2024

BC GOLF CONCUSSION POLICY

British Columbia Golf recognizes that participation in any sport or physical activity has some inherent risk of head impact or a Concussion. BC Golf 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 BC Golf's efforts to recognize and manage Concussions or Suspected Concussions. BC Golf 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 BC Golf sponsored function, including golf competitions;
- (d) "BC Golf Representative" means the Tournament Director (who is first-aid certified), 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 BC Golf staff member, or a volunteer designated by BC Golf 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 BC Golf 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* – BC Golf will make concussion awareness resources available on their public websites, including this Policy and related protocols.
- b) *Safe participation environment* – BC Golf-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 BC Golf Concussion Protocol will be implemented at BC Golf Events. Any case of a Concussion or a Suspected Concussion will be reported to the BC Golf Representative to ensure prompt access to the affected Player or Participant.

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

1. Unconscious, the BC Golf 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 BC Golf 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 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, the player may resume play. The BC Golf Representative shall take steps to monitor the player during the resumption of play.
3. In appropriate cases where signs of Concussion or Suspected Concussion may appear, a medical assessment shall take place as soon as possible. If the individual does not co-operate in evaluating the possibility of a Concussion or displays Concussion Symptoms and refuses medical assistance or assessment, It will be recommended that the individual leave the playing area and rest in a dark quiet area. The BC Golf Representative will attempt to notify the designated primary emergency contact and advise of the individual's current status, and arrange for or confirm that the individual has a ride home.

Note: If the player refuses emergency medical assistance, or having received such assistance, refuses to follow the advice provided by emergency or medical personnel, BC Golf reserves the right to withdraw the player's entry from the competition, in its sole discretion.

Incident Reporting

The BC Golf 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 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

BC Golf will review this policy on an annual basis.

Appendices

[Current Concussion Recognition Tool](#)