

Return to Play: Sport Specific Recommendations Football



Return to Play- Football			
Stage	Activity	Football Specific Exercise	Objective of the stage
I	Limited physical activity that does not exacerbate symptoms for at least 2 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Untimed walking okay No activities requiring exertion (weightlifting, jogging, P.E. classes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery and elimination of symptoms
II-A	Light aerobic activity Must be performed under direct supervision by designated individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10-15 min walking on treadmill or in quiet area 10-15 minutes of stationary bike 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase heart rate to no more than 50% of perceived maximum (<i>max</i>) exertion (e.g., < 100 bpm) Monitor for symptom return
II-B	Moderate aerobic activity (<i>Light resistance training</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20-30 minutes jogging with helmet Resistance training- body weight squats and push-ups – 1 set of 10 reps each 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase heart rate to 50-75% max exertion (e.g., 100-150 bpm) Monitor for symptom return
II-C	Strenuous aerobic activity (<i>moderate resistance training</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30-45 minutes running or stationary biking Weightlifting \leq50% max weight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase heart rate to 75% max exertion Monitor for symptom rtn
II-D	Non-contact Football specific drills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving in/out 3 point stance, bear crawls through tunnel, tires, step over bags (vertical and lateral), QB/ center exchange, QB drop backs, passing, break downs and plant, jump cuts, backpedaling, match the hips, up/downs Start without helmet. Progress to helmet and shoulder pads if symptom free 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximize aerobic activity Introduce head movements Monitor for symptom return
Prior to beginning Stage III, please make sure that written physician (MD/DO) clearance for return to play, after successful completion of Stages I and II, has been given to your school's concussion monitor and/or coach			
III-A	Limited contact football drills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 4 workout in full pads Hit/ push pads then sled (focus on technique- head up, square up, stay low) step and hit, run and hit, leverage drill, punch drill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximize aerobic activity Add deceleration/ rotational forces in controlled setting Introduce inversion- vestibular stress Monitor for symptom return
III-B	Full practice (after medical clearance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normal training activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reassess for symptoms every 30 minutes throughout the practice Monitor for symptoms
MANDATORY: You must complete at least ONE contact practice before return to competition, or if non-contact sport, ONE unrestricted practice			
IV	Return to play (competition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normal game play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return to full sport activity without restriction