



# LIFESAVING SOCIETY CANADA NATIONAL POLICY

<b>SUBJECT:</b> Concussion Policy	
<b>CATEGORY:</b> Lifesaving Sport	<b>POLICY NUMBER:</b> GP-020
<b>BYLAW:</b>	<b>DATE OF BOD APPROVAL:</b> 26-09-2022

## PURPOSE

This policy is intended as a guideline to ensure that all participants attending nationally sanctioned Lifesaving Society Canada (hereinafter LSC) sporting events, with a suspected concussion, receive timely and appropriate care and proper management to allow them to return back to activity safely.

## SCOPE

This policy encompasses the Board of Directors, Members, the Management Team, the National Secretariat, Commissions, and all Member-appointed volunteers, employees, participants, and/or agents LSC. Members should reference the National Concussion Policy and Standard Operating Procedure in the absence of any Provincial/Territorial legislation or relevant Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) guidelines

## DEFINITIONS

**Concussion:** A traumatic brain injury, induced by biomechanical forces to the head, or anywhere on the body which transmits an impulsive force to the head. Neurological impairment and the symptoms may evolve over the hours or days following the injury.

**Nationally Sanctioned Sporting Event:** Includes Canadian Lifeguard Emergency Response Championships (CLERC), Canadian Pool Lifesaving Championships (CPLC), Canadian Surf Lifesaving Championships (CSLC) and any other Nationally sanctioned events such as National Team selection time trials or training camps.

**Sport Participants:** Includes all athletes, coaches and officials.

## POLICY STATEMENTS

### 1. General

1.1. The health and safety of participants is of utmost importance to LSC. The Society recognizes that concussions are potentially serious injuries that should be treated in a way that demonstrates the health and safety of participants is always a priority.

### 2. Elimination or Minimization of Risk

2.1. To eliminate or minimize the risk to participants from a concussion, the following will be in effect:

- All national events will abide by the Concussion Protocol Standard Operating Procedure.
- Concussion resources will be made available to all participants.

- c. All lifesaving sport coaches and officials attending a nationally sanctioned sporting event will provide evidence of training in the identification of suspected concussions and treatment protocols.

**3. Violations**

3.1. Anyone found to have willfully ignored this policy and/or are in violation of the Code of Conduct will be suspended from their duties and participation at nationally sanctioned sporting events and will undergo a review and sanctions applied as appropriate.

**EVALUATION**

The Lifesaving Society Canada’s Board of Directors will evaluate this policy as per the policy revision cycle.

**REFERENCE**

- Lifesaving Society Canada Bylaw 5.4 (i) Role of Canadian Society
- SOP – Concussion Protocol
- Parachute (2017). *Canadian Guideline on Concussion in Sport*. Retrieved from: <https://parachute.ca/en/professional-resource/concussion-collection/canadian-guideline-on-concussion-in-sport/>
- *Sport Information Resource Centre (2019). Concussion Policy Development in Canadian Sport*. Retrieved from: <https://sirc.ca/concussion/best-practices-inspiration/canadas-concussion-roadmap/>
- Province of Ontario: Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (2021). *Rowan’s Law: Information for sports organizations and schools*. Information for sport organizations. Retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/rowans-law-information-sports-organizations-and-schools#section-1>
- Province of Ontario: Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (2021). *Rowan’s Law: Concussion Awareness Resources*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/rowans-law-concussion-awareness-resources>
- Swimming Canada (2021). *Concussion Policy-V6*. Retrieved from: <https://www.swimming.ca/en/resources/board-governance/board-policies/>

**RELATED POLICIES**

**APPROVAL HISTORY**

ISSUED BY:	APPROVED BY:	BOARD APPROVAL
Policy Committee	Policy Committee	Date: 26-02-2022
REVISED BY:	APPROVED BY:	BOARD APPROVAL
		Date: