



**FOOTBALL
INTEGRATION
DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION**

**SCHEDULE 13
CONCUSSION POLICY
(2025)**

1. Overview

- 1.1 FIDA acknowledges that the players that participate in the league are uniquely vulnerable to injuries relating to the brain. As such concussion is an extremely important concern for the League and associated clubs and players.
- 1.2 FIDA is committed to the health and safety of all participants who participate in competition.
- 1.3 FIDA adopts the concussion policy outlined in “**The Management of Sport-Related Concussion in Australian Football**” Guidelines. Under these guidelines.
- 1.4 In addition to adopting the above guidelines FIDA has added additional guidelines to ensure the disabilities of participants are given due consideration

2. Guidelines

- 2.1 All players with a suspected concussion **MUST** seek an urgent medical assessment with a registered doctor.
- 2.2 The guidelines in place, do not replace the need to seek medical assessment, but are intended to assist in the management of concussion only.
- 2.3 Any player with a concussion or suspected concussion (i.e., in cases where there is no medical doctor present to assess the player, or the diagnosis of concussion cannot be ruled out at the time of injury) **must be removed from play and not be allowed to return in the same match or training session.**
 - 2.3.1 Players with a suspected concussion **CANNOT** return to the current game under any circumstances.
 - 2.3.2 Clubs allowing a player with a suspected concussion to return to the current game will face consequences not limited to loss of points, a fine, or suspension or expulsion from the League.
- 2.4 Do not be swayed by the opinion of the player, trainers, coaching staff, parents, or others suggesting premature return to play.
- 2.5 Players diagnosed with concussion **CANNOT** return to play for a **minimum of 21 days** once they are symptom free.
- 2.6 **In addition to this, Players diagnosed with concussion cannot play again without medical clearance from a General Practitioner or Specialist.**

3. Additional Recommendations

- 3.1 In addition to the guidelines, FIDA
 - 3.1.1 encourages that all players should be encouraged to wear helmets.
 - 3.1.2 every club coach, assistant coach, first aider and president must have the AFL Head Check app downloaded (or a medically approved equivalent) on their phone and know how to use it.
 - 3.1.3 mandates that clubs **MUST** have an individual that meets the relevant minimum qualifications in attendance at every match of every fixture (inclusive of finals).
 - 3.1.4 Clubs are encouraged to be familiar with the AFL Return to Play protocols in “The Management of Sport-Related Concussion in Australian Football” Guidelines

4. Reporting

- 4.1 Any diagnosis of concussion **MUST BE REPORTED** to FIDA within the same time limits as match reports team sheets and scores and should be noted on the team

sheets. Clubs failing to report a diagnosed concussion may face consequences not limited to loss of points, a fine, or suspension or expulsion from the League.

4.2 As per 2.5, Players **CANNOT** return to play for a **minimum of 21 days post-concussion**, unless the league is provided with a medical clearance to return to play from a Doctor (General Practitioner or Specialist)

4.3 This medical clearance must be submitted to FIDA **by 12:00pm on the Friday before the player is intending to resume playing.**

5. Penalties

5.1 Clubs allowing a player diagnosed with concussion to return to the game without medical clearance will face consequences not limited to loss of points, a fine, or suspension or expulsion from the League.