

Maple Leaf Cavan FC Rowan's Law

On July 1, 2019, new rules came into effect in Ontario through *Rowan's Law* to improve concussion safety in amateur competitive sport. Maple Leaf Cavan FC is advising its athletes under 26 years of age, parents of athletes under 18, coaches, team trainers and officials that they must comply with Rowan's Law and are required to, as a precondition to participation:

- review any one of Ontario's official Concussion Awareness Resources before registering a player, participating or serving with MLCFC [available at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/rowans-law-concussion-awareness-resources> (Government of Ontario)]; and
- review MLCFC's Concussion Code of Conduct for athletes and parents/guardians (below).

By signing this form (below), I am indicating that I have fulfilled the requirements specified above.

Concussion Code of Conduct for Athletes and Parents/Guardians

I will help prevent concussions by:

- Wearing the proper equipment for my sport and wearing it correctly.
- Developing my skills and strength so that I can participate to the best of my ability.
- Respecting the rules of my sport or activity.
- My commitment to fair play and respect for all* (respecting other athletes, coaches, team trainers and officials).

I will care for my health and safety by taking concussions seriously, and I understand that:

- A concussion is a brain injury that can have both short- and long-term effects.
- A blow to my head, face or neck, or a blow to the body that causes the brain to move around inside the skull may cause a concussion.
- I don't need to lose consciousness to have had a concussion.
- I have a commitment to concussion recognition and reporting, including self-reporting of possible concussion and reporting to a designated person when and individual suspects that another individual may have sustained a concussion.* (Meaning: If I think I might have a concussion I should stop participating in further training, practice or competition **immediately**, or tell an adult if I think another athlete has a concussion).
- Continuing to participate in further training, practice or competition with a possible concussion increases my risk of more severe, longer lasting symptoms, and increases my risk of other injuries.

I will not hide concussion symptoms. I will speak up for myself and others.

- I will not hide my symptoms. I will tell a coach, official, team trainer, parent or another adult I trust if I experience **any** symptoms of concussion.



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- If someone else tells me about concussion symptoms, or I see signs they might have a concussion, I will tell a coach, official, team trainer, parent or another adult I trust so they can help.
- I understand that if I have a suspected concussion, I will be removed from sport and that I will not be able to return to training, practice or competition until I undergo a medical assessment by a medical doctor or nurse practitioner and have been medically cleared to return to training, practice or competition.
- I have a commitment to sharing any pertinent information regarding incidents of removal from sport with the athlete's school and any other sport organization with which the athlete has registered* (Meaning: If I am diagnosed with a concussion, I understand that letting all of my other coaches and teachers know about my injury will help them support me while I recover.)

I will take the time I need to recover, because it is important for my health.

- I understand my commitment to supporting the return-to-sport process* (I will have to follow my sport organization's Return-to-Sport Protocol).
- I understand I will have to be medically cleared by a medical doctor or nurse practitioner before returning to training, practice or competition.
- I will respect my coaches, team trainers, parents, health-care professionals, and medical doctors and nurse practitioners, regarding my health and safety.

By signing here, I acknowledge that I have reviewed official concussion awareness resources and have fully reviewed and commit to this Concussion Code of Conduct.

Athlete Name: _____

Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian

Signature (of athletes who are under 18 years of age): _____

Date: _____

As an affiliated organization governed by Ontario Soccer, Maple Leaf Cavan FC has adopted the Canada Soccer Policy on Concussion, as posted online at www.ontariosoccer.net.

Items marked with an asterisk * are mandatory by Ontario Regulation.161/19:General.
Concussion protocol adopted, unedited from Ontario Soccer A 2019 - 013

ver: 03/2020



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- review any one of Ontario's official Concussion Awareness Resources before registering a player, participating or serving with MLCFC [available at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/rowans-law-concussion-awareness-resources> (Government of Ontario)]; and
- review MLCFC's Concussion Code of Conduct for athletes and parents/guardians (below).

By signing this form (below), I am indicating that I have fulfilled the requirements specified above.

Concussion Code of Conduct for Coaches, Team Trainers and Officials

I can help prevent concussions through my:

- Efforts to ensure that my athletes wear the proper equipment and wear it correctly.
- Efforts to help my athletes develop their skills and strength so they can participate to the best of their abilities.
- Respect for the rules of my sport or activity and efforts to ensure that my athletes do, too.
- Commitment to fair play and respect for all (respecting other coaches, team trainers, officials and all participants and ensuring my athletes respect others and play fair). *

I will care for the health and safety of all participants by taking concussions seriously. I understand that:

- A concussion is a brain injury that can have both short- and long-term effects.
- A blow to the head, face, or neck, or a blow to the body may cause the brain to move around inside the skull and result in a concussion.
- A person doesn't need to lose consciousness to have had a concussion.
- An athlete with a suspected concussion should stop participating in training, practice or competition **immediately**.
- I have a commitment to concussion recognition and reporting, including self-reporting of possible concussion and reporting to a designated person when an individual suspects that another individual may have sustained a concussion. *
- Continuing to participate in further training, practice or competition with a suspected concussion increases a person's risk of more severe, longer lasting symptoms, and increases their risk of other injuries or even death.



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I will create an environment where participants feel safe and comfortable speaking up. I will:

- Encourage athletes not to hide their symptoms, but to tell me, an official, parent or another adult they trust if they experience **any** symptoms of concussion after an impact.
- Lead by example. I will tell a fellow coach, official, team trainer and seek medical attention by a physician or nurse practitioner if I am experiencing any concussion symptoms.
- Understand and respect that any athlete with a suspected concussion must be removed from sport and not permitted to return until they undergo a medical assessment by a physician or nurse practitioner and have been medically cleared to return to training, practice or competition.
- *For coaches only:* Commit to providing opportunities before and after each training, practice and competition to enable athletes to discuss potential issues related to concussions. *

I will support all participants to take the time they need to recover.

- I understand my commitment to supporting the return-to-sport process. *
- I understand the athletes will have to be cleared by a physician or nurse practitioner before returning to sport.
- I will respect my fellow coaches, team trainers, parents, physicians and nurse practitioners and any decisions made with regards to the health and safety of my athletes.

By signing here, I acknowledge that I have reviewed official concussion awareness resources and have fully reviewed and commit to this Concussion Code of Conduct.

Coach/Team Trainer/Official Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Additional concussion educational resources for coaches and officials are available from:

- <https://www.ontariosoccer.net/page/show/3996605-holland-bloorview-concussion-resources> (Ontario Soccer)
- <https://www.coachesontario.ca/concussion/> (Coaches Association of Ontario)

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