

Dear Parents,

This year we are implementing a new system into to the Athletics Program here at Gulf Coast High School. It is called ImPact Cognitive Testing. This test aids us in the diagnosis of traumatic head injuries and prevention of Second Impact Syndrome. ImPact is a computer and web-based diagnostic assessment tool that will be one of the factors in your child's return to play after he/she has sustained a concussion. This test establishes a (pre-injury) baseline brain function for the student athlete in contact sports.

Concussions are a traumatic injury to the brain as a result of a violent blow. It can cause immediate, usually temporary impairment of the brain function: thinking, vision, equilibrium, and consciousness. It is important to manage concussions on an individualized base and to implement baseline testing and/or post-injury neuro-cognitive testing. This type of assessment helps us to objectively evaluate the concussed athlete post-injury and track recovery for safe return to play, thus preventing cumulative effects of a concussion such as Second Impact Syndrome which can be deadly. With this data, being evaluated and monitored by a Physician and ATC, we will then determine when it is safe for your child to return to their sport.

If your child is a Junior or Senior this year, they will only be baseline tested once while they are here at Gulf Coast. If they are a Freshman or Sophomore they will be taking the baseline test one more time while they are here, as this test needs to be repeated every 2 years. The last form in this packet is the Parental Consent form and is required for this Cognitive Testing to be done. Without this form and permission for this test your child will NOT be able to participate in contact sports here at Gulf Coast. Please fill out and return to the coach or myself as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me through email (chircoch@collierschools.com) or my cell phone at 239-272-5726.

Thank you for your time.

Christina Chirco ATC
Head Athletic Trainer