

Position Statement:

American Association of Neurological Surgeons Policy Statement on Concussion

Approved by the AANS Executive Committee on May 31, 2012

The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) recognizes that the risk of a head injury, including a concussion or traumatic brain injury, is something athletes are faced with every time they step on the field of play. Neurosurgeons have long been leaders in the diagnosis and treatment of these injuries, and the AANS — in concert with numerous neurosurgery-related organizations and groups — has worked to develop a program of education designed to underscore the importance of prevention, diagnosis, and proper treatment of concussion and other brain-related injuries. Our goal is — and always will be — to educate and promote public awareness about the symptoms of these injuries, as well as how to prevent them from occurring.

Neurosurgical practitioners are working with various governing bodies within sports, as well as players, coaches and administrators, to ensure that an athlete who exhibits any symptoms associated with these types of injuries is properly evaluated, treated, and cleared before they are allowed to return and participate in a sports-related activity. As neurosurgeons and physicians, we place player safety above all else in the realm of competitive athletics. We will continue to advocate for the implementation of policies that promote player safety, work to advance the research and understanding on how these injuries can impact participants, and assist in any way the development of programs and procedures that make these activities safer for all those participating.