

# Child SCOAT6™



## Sport Concussion Office Assessment Tool

### For Children Ages 8 to 12 Years

#### What is the Child SCOAT6?\*

The Child SCOAT6 is a tool for evaluating concussions in a controlled office environment by Health Care Professionals (HCP) typically from 72 hours (3 days) following a sport-related concussion.

Brief verbal instructions for some components of the Child SCOAT6 are included. Detailed instructions for use of the Child SCOAT6 are provided in an accompanying document. Please read through these instructions carefully before using the Child SCOAT6.

The diagnosis of concussion is a clinical determination made by an HCP. The various components of the Child SCOAT6 may assist with the clinical assessment and help guide individualised management.

This tool may be freely copied in its current form for distribution to individuals, teams, groups, and organisations.

The Child SCOAT6 is used for evaluating athletes aged 8 - 12 years. For athletes aged 13 years and older, please use the SCOAT6.

Any alteration (including translations and digital re-formatting), re-branding, or sale for commercial gain is not permissible without the expressed written consent of BMJ and the Concussion in Sport Group (CISG).

#### Completion Guide

**Blue:** Complete only at first assessment

**Green:** Recommended part of assessment

**Orange:** Optional part of assessment

Athlete's Name: <input type="text"/>		
Date of Birth: <input type="text"/>	Sex: Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer Not To Say <input type="checkbox"/>
Sport: <input type="text"/>		
Age First Played Contact Sport: <input type="text"/>	School Class/Grade/Level: <input type="text"/>	
Handedness (Writing): L <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> Ambidextrous <input type="checkbox"/>	Handedness (Sport): L <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> Ambidextrous <input type="checkbox"/>	
Dominant Leg (Sport): L <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> Ambidextrous <input type="checkbox"/>		
Name of Accompanying Parent/Carer: <input type="text"/>		
Examiner: <input type="text"/>	Date of Examination: <input type="text"/>	
Referring Physician's Name: <input type="text"/>		
Referring Physician's Contact Details: <input type="text"/>		
<input type="text"/>		

\* In reviewing studies informing the SCOAT6 and Child SCOAT6, the period defined for the included papers was 3–30 days. HCPs may choose to use the Child SCOAT6 beyond this timeframe but should be aware of the parameters of the review.

For use by Health Care Professionals Only

Child SCOAT6™

Developed by: The Concussion in Sport Group (CISG)

Supported by:





# Child SCOAT6™

## Sport Concussion Office Assessment Tool For Children Ages 8 to 12 Years



### Current Injury

Removal From Play: Immediate  Continued to play for \_\_\_\_\_ mins   
 Walked off  Assisted off  Stretchered off

Date of Injury:

Description - include mechanism of injury, presentation, management since the time of injury and trajectory of care since injury:

Date Symptoms First Appeared:

Date Symptoms First Reported:

### History of Head Injuries

Date/Year	Description - include mechanism of injury, main symptoms, recovery time	Management - including time off school or sport

### History of Any Neurological, Psychological, Psychiatric or Learning Disorders

Diagnosis	Year Diagnosed	Management Including Medication
<input type="checkbox"/> Migraine		
<input type="checkbox"/> Chronic headache		
<input type="checkbox"/> Depression		
<input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety		
<input type="checkbox"/> Syncope		
<input type="checkbox"/> Epilepsy/seizures		
<input type="checkbox"/> Attention deficit hyper-activity disorder (ADHD)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Learning disorder/ dyslexia		
<input type="checkbox"/> Developmental Co-ordination Disorder		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		



**List All Current Medications - including over-the-counter, naturopathic and supplements**

Item	Dose	Frequency	Reason Taken

**Family History of Any Diagnosed Neurological, Psychological, Psychiatric, Cognitive or Developmental Disorders**

Family Member	Diagnosis	Management Including Medication
	<input type="checkbox"/> Depression	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Attention deficit hyper-activity disorder (ADHD)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Learning disorder/ dyslexia	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Migraine	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

**Additional Notes:**



## Child Report

Child to complete all 3 symptom boxes

### Box 1

Symptom	Not at all/never	A little/rarely	Somewhat/sometimes	A lot/often
I have headaches	0	1	2	3
I feel dizzy	0	1	2	3
I feel like the room is spinning	0	1	2	3
I feel like I'm going to faint	0	1	2	3
Things are blurry when I look at them	0	1	2	3
I see double	0	1	2	3
I feel sick to my stomach	0	1	2	3
I get tired a lot	0	1	2	3
I get tired easily	0	1	2	3
I have trouble paying attention	0	1	2	3
I get distracted easily	0	1	2	3
I have a hard time concentrating	0	1	2	3
I have problems remembering what people tell me	0	1	2	3
I have problems following directions	0	1	2	3
I daydream too much	0	1	2	3
I get confused	0	1	2	3
I forget things	0	1	2	3
I have problems finishing things	0	1	2	3
I have trouble figuring things out	0	1	2	3
It's hard for me to learn new things	0	1	2	3

**Box 1: Total Number of Symptoms:**  of 20      **Symptom Severity Score:**  of 60

### Box 2

Symptom	Not at all/never	A little/rarely	Somewhat/sometimes	A lot/often
My neck hurts	0	1	2	3
I have problems with bright lights	0	1	2	3
I have problems with loud noise	0	1	2	3
I feel sleepy or drowsy	0	1	2	3
I am sleeping more than usual	0	1	2	3
I have difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep at night	0	1	2	3
I have problems with balance	0	1	2	3
I am thinking more slowly	0	1	2	3
I am more emotional	0	1	2	3
Things annoy me easily	0	1	2	3
I am sad	0	1	2	3
I have problems looking up at the board after looking at work on my desk	0	1	2	3

**Box 2: Total Number of Symptoms:**  of 12      **Symptom Severity Score:**  of 36



### Child Report (Continued)

#### Box 3

Do the symptoms get worse with physical activity?	Y	N
Do the symptoms get worse with trying to think?	Y	N

Overall rating for child to answer:

On a scale of 0 to 10 (where 10 is normal), how do you feel now? Very Bad 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Very Good

If not 10, in what way do you feel different?

#### Child Report (Box 1 + Box 2)

Total Number of Symptoms:  of 32      Symptom Severity Score:  of 96

### Parent Report

Parent to complete all 3 symptom boxes

#### Box 1

The Child...

Symptom	Not at all/never	A little/rarely	Somewhat/sometimes	A lot/often
has headaches	0	1	2	3
feels dizzy	0	1	2	3
has a feeling that the room is spinning	0	1	2	3
feels faint	0	1	2	3
has blurred vision	0	1	2	3
has double vision	0	1	2	3
experiences nausea	0	1	2	3
gets tired a lot	0	1	2	3
gets tired easily	0	1	2	3
has trouble sustaining attention	0	1	2	3
is distracted easily	0	1	2	3
has difficulty concentrating	0	1	2	3
has problems remembering what he/she is told	0	1	2	3
has difficulty following directions	0	1	2	3
tends to daydream	0	1	2	3
gets confused	0	1	2	3
is forgetful	0	1	2	3
has difficulty completing tasks	0	1	2	3
has poor problem-solving skills	0	1	2	3
has problems learning	0	1	2	3

Box 1: Total Number of Symptoms:  of 20      Symptom Severity Score:  of 60



## Parent Report (Continued)

### Box 2

The Child...

Symptom	Not at all/never	A little/rarely	Somewhat/sometimes	A lot/often
has a sore neck	0	1	2	3
is sensitive to light	0	1	2	3
is sensitive to noise	0	1	2	3
appears drowsy	0	1	2	3
is sleeping more than usual	0	1	2	3
has difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep at night	0	1	2	3
has balance problems	0	1	2	3
is thinking more slowly	0	1	2	3
acts more emotional	0	1	2	3
acts irritable	0	1	2	3
appears sad	0	1	2	3
has difficulty shifting vision in the classroom (i.e. looking from work on a desk to board)	0	1	2	3

Box 2: Total Number of Symptoms:  of 12      Symptom Severity Score:  of 36

### Box 3

Do the symptoms get worse with physical activity?	Y	N
Do the symptoms get worse with trying to think?	Y	N

Overall rating for parent/teacher/coach/carer to answer:

On a scale of 0 to 100% (where 100% is normal), how would you rate the child now?

If not 100%, in what way does the child seem different?

### Parent Report (Box 1 + Box 2)

Total Number of Symptoms:  of 32      Symptom Severity Score:  of 96

## PACE Self-Efficacy Questionnaire - Self Report

A measure that indicates the degree of the child's confidence in their actions affecting recovery.

Questionnaire contained in Child SCOAT6 Supplementary Material



## Verbal Cognitive Tests

### Immediate Memory

All 3 trials must be administered irrespective of the number correct on Trial 1. Administer at the rate of one word per second in a monotone voice.

**Trial 1:** Say *"I am going to test your memory. I will read you a list of words and when I am done, repeat back as many words as you can remember, in any order."*

**Trials 2 and 3:** Say *"I am going to repeat the same list. Repeat back as many words as you can remember in any order, even if you said the word before in a previous trial."*

Word list used: A  B  C

						Alternate Lists	
List A	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3	List B	List C		
Jacket	0 1	0 1	0 1	Finger	Baby		
Arrow	0 1	0 1	0 1	Penny	Monkey		
Pepper	0 1	0 1	0 1	Blanket	Perfume		
Cotton	0 1	0 1	0 1	Lemon	Sunset		
Movie	0 1	0 1	0 1	Insect	Iron		
Dollar	0 1	0 1	0 1	Candle	Elbow		
Honey	0 1	0 1	0 1	Paper	Apple		
Mirror	0 1	0 1	0 1	Sugar	Carpet		
Saddle	0 1	0 1	0 1	Sandwich	Saddle		
Anchor	0 1	0 1	0 1	Wagon	Bubble		
<b>Trial Total</b>							
Immediate Memory Total _____ of 30							
Time last trial completed: _____							

### Digits Backwards

Administer at the rate of one word per second in a monotone voice.

**Say** *"I am going to read a string of numbers and when I am done, you repeat them back to me in reverse order of how I read them to you. For example, if I say 7-1, you would say 1-7. So, if I said 6-8 you would say? (8-6)"*

Digit list used: A  B  C

List A	List B	List C					
2-7	9-2	7-8	Y	N	0	1	
5-9	6-1	5-1	Y	N	0	1	
7-8-2	3-8-2	2-7-1	Y	N	0	1	
9-2-6	5-1-8	4-7-9	Y	N	0	1	
4-1-8-3	2-7-9-3	1-6-8-3	Y	N	0	1	
9-7-2-3	2-1-6-9	3-9-2-4	Y	N	0	1	
1-7-9-2-6	4-1-8-6-9	2-4-7-5-8	Y	N	0	1	
4-1-7-5-2	9-4-1-7-5	8-3-9-6-4	Y	N	0	1	
6-0-1-3-5-7	2-5-1-3-9-8	0-7-5-8-1-6	Y	N	0	1	
6-1-2-8-0-7	0-8-5-1-9-4	0-2-8-4-7-1	Y	N	0	1	
<b>Digits score</b>							<b>of 4</b>

### Days in Reverse Order

**Say** *"Now tell me the days of the week in reverse order. Start with the last day and go backward. So you'll say Sunday, Saturday, and so on... Go ahead."* Start stopwatch and CIRCLE each correct response:

Sunday Saturday Friday Thursday Wednesday Tuesday Monday

Time Taken to Complete (secs): \_\_\_\_\_ (N <30 sec)      Number of Errors: \_\_\_\_\_



### Symbol Digit Modalities Test

A measure of psychomotor processing speed.

If clinically indicated based on symptoms and clinical findings

**SDMT contained in Child SCOAT6 Supplementary Material**

## Examination

### Orthostatic Vital Signs

Take the child's blood pressure and pulse via digital sphygmomanometer after lying supine for 2 minutes; and then again after standing unsupported for 2 minutes. An option is to perform an additional assessment between lying and standing: after sitting upright for 2 minutes. The child is asked if they experience any symptoms such as: dizziness or light-headedness, fainting, blurred or fading vision, nausea, fatigue, or lack of concentration.

Orthostatic Vital Signs	Supine (after 2 minutes)	Standing (after 2 minutes)
Blood Pressure (mmHg)		
Heart Rate (bpm)		
Symptoms <sup>1</sup> • Dizziness or light-headedness • Fainting • Blurred or fading vision • Nausea • Fatigue • Lack of concentration	No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> If yes: Description	No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> If yes: Description
Results	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal	

Orthostatic hypotension: a drop in systolic BP  $\geq$  20 mmHg between supine and standing positions. Orthostatic tachycardia: an elevation in HR of  $\geq$ 30 bpm when transitioning between the supine and standing positions, in the absence of orthostatic hypotension.

### Cervical Spine Assessment

Cervical Spine Palpation	Signs and Symptoms		Location
Muscle Spasm	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal	
Midline Tenderness	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal	
Paravertebral Tenderness	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal	
Cervical Active Range of Motion	Result		
Flexion (50-80°)	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal	
Extension (45-95°)	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal	
Right Lateral Flexion (30-55°)	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal	
Left Lateral Flexion (30-55°)	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal	
Right Rotation (50-90°)	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal	
Left Rotation (50-90°)	<input type="checkbox"/> Normal	<input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal	

Notes:





### Neurological Examination

**Cranial Nerves**

Normal       Abnormal       Not tested

Notes:

**Finger to Nose**

Eyes Open:

Left Hand:	Normal <input type="checkbox"/>	Abnormal <input type="checkbox"/>	Not tested <input type="checkbox"/>
Right Hand:	Normal <input type="checkbox"/>	Abnormal <input type="checkbox"/>	Not tested <input type="checkbox"/>

Eyes Closed:

Left Hand:	Normal <input type="checkbox"/>	Abnormal <input type="checkbox"/>	Not tested <input type="checkbox"/>
Right Hand:	Normal <input type="checkbox"/>	Abnormal <input type="checkbox"/>	Not tested <input type="checkbox"/>

**Other Neurological Findings**

Limb Tone:	Normal <input type="checkbox"/>	Abnormal <input type="checkbox"/>	Not tested <input type="checkbox"/>
Strength:	Normal <input type="checkbox"/>	Abnormal <input type="checkbox"/>	Not tested <input type="checkbox"/>
Deep Tendon Reflexes:	Normal <input type="checkbox"/>	Abnormal <input type="checkbox"/>	Not tested <input type="checkbox"/>
Sensation:	Normal <input type="checkbox"/>	Abnormal <input type="checkbox"/>	Not tested <input type="checkbox"/>
Cerebellar Function:	Normal <input type="checkbox"/>	Abnormal <input type="checkbox"/>	Not tested <input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

### Balance

Barefoot on a firm surface with or without foam mat

Foot Tested: Left     Right  (i.e. test the non-dominant foot)

<div style="background-color: #1a3d54; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>Modified BESS</b></div> <p>Double Leg Stance: <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> of 10</p> <p>Tandem Stance: <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> of 10</p> <p>Single Leg Stance: <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> of 10</p> <p>Total Errors: <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> of 30</p>	<div style="background-color: #e67e22; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"><b>On Foam</b></div> <p>Double Leg Stance: <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> of 10</p> <p>Tandem Stance: <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> of 10</p> <p>Single Leg Stance: <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> of 10</p> <p>Total Errors: <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> of 30</p>
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### Timed Tandem Gait

Place a 3-metre-long line on the floor/firm surface with athletic tape. The task should be timed.

**Say** *“Please walk heel-to-toe quickly to the end of the tape, turn around and come back as fast as you can without separating your feet or stepping off the line.”*

Time to Complete Tandem Gait Walking (seconds)				
Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3	Average 3 Trials	Fastest Trial

Abnormal/failed to complete     Unstable/sway     Fall/over-step     Dizzy/nauseated

### Complex Tandem Gait

#### Forward

**Say** *“Please walk heel-to-toe quickly five steps forward, then continue forward with eyes closed five steps”*

1 point for each step off the line, 1 point for truncal sway.

Forward Eyes Open                      Points:

Forward Eyes Closed                    Points:

Forward Total Points:

#### Backward

**Say** *“Please walk heel-to-toe again, backwards five steps eyes open, then continue backwards five steps with eyes closed.”* 1 point for each step off the line, 1 point for truncal sway.

Backward Eyes Open                    Points:

Backward Eyes Closed                   Points:

Backward Total Points:

Total Points (Forward + Backward):

### Dual Task Gait

Only perform if child successfully completes Complex Tandem Gait

**Say** *“Now, while you are walking heel-to-toe, I will ask you to count backwards out loud by 7s (or 3s) / recite the months of the year (or days of the week) in reverse order”* (select one cognitive task). Allow for a verbal practice attempt of the cognitive task selected.

Cognitive Tasks												
Trial 1	95	88	81	74	67	60	53	46				
(Subtract serial 7s)												
OR												
(Subtract serial 3s)	97	94	91	88	85	82	79	76				
OR Trial 2	December	November	October	September	August	July	June	May	April	March	February	January
(Months backward)												
OR												
(Days backward)	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Monday	Sunday	Saturday	Friday					

**Before attempting the dual task:** *“Good. Now I will ask you to walk heel-to-toe calling the answers out loud at the same time. Are you ready?”*

Cognitive Accuracy:    Number Correct:     Number Incorrect:     Average Time (s):

Comments:



## Visio-Vestibular Examination

### Smooth Pursuits

Patient-reported Symptom Provocation:

Worsening Headache: Yes  No       Dizziness: Yes  No   
 Eye Fatigue: Yes  No       Eye Pain: Yes  No       Nausea: Yes  No

Or Physical Signs:

Jerky or Jumpy Eye Movements: Yes  No       >3 Beats of Nystagmus: Yes  No

### Fast Saccades

Horizontal Saccades:

Worsening Headache: Yes  No       Dizziness: Yes  No   
 Eye Fatigue: Yes  No       Eye Pain: Yes  No       Nausea: Yes  No

Vertical Saccades:

Worsening Headache: Yes  No       Dizziness: Yes  No   
 Eye Fatigue: Yes  No       Eye Pain: Yes  No       Nausea: Yes  No

### Gaze Stability Testing (The Angular Vestibular-Ocular Reflex)

Vertical Gaze Stability:

Worsening Headache: Yes  No       Dizziness: Yes  No   
 Eye Fatigue: Yes  No       Eye Pain: Yes  No       Nausea: Yes  No

Horizontal Gaze Stability:

Worsening Headache: Yes  No       Dizziness: Yes  No   
 Eye Fatigue: Yes  No       Eye Pain: Yes  No       Nausea: Yes  No

### Near Point of Convergence Testing

Distance:  cm

### Left and Right Monocular Accommodation

Left Eye Distance:  cm      Right Eye Distance:  cm

### Complex Tandem Gait (if not tested in Balance)

Complex Tandem Gait Score:

## Pediatric Athlete Mental Health

### Pediatric Anxiety – Short Form 8a

If clinically indicated based on symptoms and clinical findings

Pediatric Anxiety Questionnaire contained in Child SCOAT6 Supplementary Material

### Pediatric Depressive Symptoms – Short Form 8a

If clinically indicated based on symptoms and clinical findings

Pediatric Depressive Questionnaire contained in Child SCOAT6 Supplementary Material



### Pediatric Athlete Mental Health (Continued)

#### Pediatric Sleep Disturbance – Short Form 4a

If clinically indicated based on symptoms and clinical findings

**Pediatric Sleep Disturbance Questionnaire contained in Child SCOAT6 Supplementary Material**

#### Pediatric Sleep-Related Impairment – Short Form 4a

If clinically indicated based on symptoms and clinical findings

**Pediatric Sleep-Related Impairment Questionnaire contained in Child SCOAT6 Supplementary Material**

#### The Pediatric Fear Avoidance Behavior after Traumatic Brain Injury Questionnaire (PFAB-TBI)

A measure to identify fear avoidance behaviour, which may contribute to poorer outcomes/persisting symptoms post concussion, which may benefit from psychological intervention.

**PFAB-TBI Questionnaire contained in Child SCOAT6 Supplementary Material**

### Delayed Word Recall

Minimum of 5 minutes after immediate recall

Say *“Do you remember that list of words I read a few times earlier? Tell me as many words from the list as you can remember in any order.”*

Word list used: A  B  C

Word list used: A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/>			Alternate Lists	
List A	Score	List B	List C	
Jacket	0 1	Finger	Baby	
Arrow	0 1	Penny	Monkey	
Pepper	0 1	Blanket	Perfume	
Cotton	0 1	Lemon	Sunset	
Movie	0 1	Insect	Iron	
Dollar	0 1	Candle	Elbow	
Honey	0 1	Paper	Apple	
Mirror	0 1	Sugar	Carpet	
Saddle	0 1	Sandwich	Saddle	
Anchor	0 1	Wagon	Bubble	

Score:  of 10

Record Actual Time (mins) Since Completing Immediate Recall:

### Computerised Cognitive Test Results (if used)

Not Done

Test Battery Used:

Recent Baseline - if performed (Date):

Post-Injury Result (Rest):

Post-Injury Result (Post-Exercise Stress):

### Graded Aerobic Exercise Test

Not Done

Exclude contra-indications: cardiac condition, respiratory disease, significant vestibular symptoms, motor dysfunction, lower limb injuries, cervical spine injury.

Protocol Used:



### Overall Assessment

**Summary:**

[Empty text box for summary]

### Management and Follow-up Plan

**Recommendations regarding return to:**

**School/Class:** [Text box]

**Sport:** [Text box]

**Assessment by:**

**Name:**

- Athletic Trainer/Therapist [Text box]
- Exercise Physiologist [Text box]
- Neurologist [Text box]
- Neuropsychologist [Text box]
- Neurosurgeon [Text box]
- Ophthalmologist [Text box]
- Optometrist [Text box]
- Paediatrician [Text box]
- Psychiatrist/Rehab Phys [Text box]
- Physiotherapist [Text box]
- Psychologist [Text box]
- Psychiatrist [Text box]
- Sport and Exercise Medicine Phys [Text box]
- Other [Text box]

**Neuroimaging:** Not Required  Required and Requested  Already Performed and Images Reviewed

**Details:** [Text box]

**Brain:** CT  MRI

**Cervical Spine:** XR  CT  MRI  Other  [Text box]

**Details:** [Text box]

**Pharmacotherapy Prescribed:**

[Empty text box for pharmacotherapy]

**Date of Review:** [Text box]

**Date of Follow-up:** [Text box]



**Additional Clinical Notes**

**Return-to-Learn (RTL) Strategy**

Facilitating RTL is a vital part of the recovery process for student-athletes. HCPs should work with stakeholders on education and school policies to facilitate academic support, including accommodations/learning adjustments for students with SRC when needed. Academic support should address risk factors for greater RTL duration (e.g., social determinants of health, higher symptom burden) by adjusting environmental, physical, curricular, and testing factors as needed. **Not all athletes will need a RTL strategy or academic support.** If symptom exacerbation occurs during cognitive activity or screen time, or difficulties with reading, concentration, or memory or other aspects of learning are reported, clinicians should consider implementation of a RTL strategy at the time of diagnosis and during the recovery process. When the RTL strategy is implemented, it can begin following an initial period of relative rest (Stage 1: 24-48 hrs), with an incremental increase in cognitive load (Stages 2 to 4). Progression through the strategy is symptom limited (i.e., no more than a mild exacerbation of current symptoms related to the current concussion) and its course may vary across individuals based on tolerance and symptom resolution. Further, while the RTL and RTS strategies can occur in parallel, student-athletes should complete full RTL before unrestricted RTS.

Step	Mental Activity	Activity at Each Step	Goal
1	Daily activities that do not result in more than a mild exacerbation* of symptoms related to the current concussion.	Typical activities during the day (e.g., reading) while minimizing screen time. Start with 5–15 min at a time and increase gradually.	Gradual return to typical activities.
2	School activities.	Homework, reading, or other cognitive activities outside of the classroom.	Increase tolerance to cognitive work.
3	Return to school part time.	Gradual introduction of schoolwork. May need to start with a partial school day or with greater access to rest breaks during the day.	Increase academic activities.
4	Return to school full time.	Gradually progress school activities until a full day can be tolerated without more than mild* symptom exacerbation.	Return to full academic activities and catch up on missed work.

**NOTE:** Following an initial period of relative rest (24-48 hours following injury at Step 1), athletes can begin a gradual and incremental increase in their cognitive load. Progression through the strategy for students should be slowed when there is more than a mild and brief symptom exacerbation.

\*Mild and brief exacerbation of symptoms is defined as an increase of no more than 2 points on a 0-10 point scale (with 0 representing no symptoms and 10 the worst symptoms imaginable) for less than an hour when compared with the baseline value reported prior to cognitive activity.



### Return-to-Sport (RTS) Strategy

Return to sport participation after an SRC follows a graduated stepwise strategy, an example of which is outlined in Table 2. RTS occurs in conjunction with return to learn (see RTL strategy) and under the supervision of a qualified HCP. Following an initial period of relative rest (step 1: approximately 24-48 hours), clinicians can implement step 2 [i.e., light (step 2A) and then moderate (step 2B) aerobic activity] of the RTS strategy as a treatment of acute concussion. The athlete may then advance to steps 3-6 on a time course dictated by symptoms, cognitive function, clinical findings, and clinical judgement. Differentiating early activity (step 1), aerobic exercise (step 2), and individual sport-specific exercise (step 3) as part of the treatment of SRC from the remainder of the RTS progression (steps 4-6) can be useful for the athlete and their support network (e.g., parents, coaches, administrators, agents). Athletes may be moved into the later stages that involve risk of head impact (steps 4-6 and step 3 if there is any risk of head impact with sport-specific activity) of the RTS strategy following authorization by the HCP and after resolution of any new symptoms, abnormalities in cognitive function, and clinical findings related to the current concussion. Each step typically takes at least 24 hours. Clinicians and athletes can expect a minimum of 1 week to complete the full rehabilitation strategy, but typical unrestricted RTS can take up to one month post-SRC. The time frame for RTS may vary based on individual characteristics, necessitating an individualized approach to clinical management. Athletes having difficulty progressing through the RTS strategy or with symptoms and signs that are not progressively recovering beyond the first 2-4 weeks may benefit from rehabilitation and/or involvement of a multidisciplinary team of HCP experienced in managing SRC. Medical determination of readiness to return to at-risk activities should occur prior to returning to any activities at risk of contact, collision or fall (e.g. multiplayer training drills), which may be required prior to any of steps 3-6, depending on the nature of the sport or activity that the athlete is returning to and in keeping with local laws/requirements.

Step	Exercise Strategy	Activity at Each Step	Goal
1	Symptom-limited activity.	Daily activities that do not exacerbate symptoms (e.g., walking).	Gradual reintroduction of work/school.
2	Aerobic exercise <b>2A – Light</b> (up to approx. 55% max HR) <b>then</b> <b>2B – Moderate</b> (up to approximately 70% max HR)	Stationary cycling or walking at slow to medium pace. May start light resistance training that does not result in more than mild and brief exacerbation* of concussion symptoms.	Increase heart rate.
3	Individual sport-specific exercise <b>NOTE:</b> if sport-specific exercise involves any risk of head impact, medical determination of readiness should occur prior to step 3.	Sport-specific training away from the team environment (e.g., running, change of direction and/or individual training drills away from the team environment). No activities at risk of head impact.	Add movement, change of direction.
Steps 4-6 should begin after resolution of any symptoms, abnormalities in cognitive function, and any other clinical findings related to the current concussion, including with and after physical exertion.			
4	Non-contact training drills.	Exercise to high intensity including more challenging training drills (e.g., passing drills, multiplayer training). Can integrate into team environment.	Resume usual intensity of exercise, coordination, and increased thinking.
5	Full contact practice.	Participate in normal training activities.	Restore confidence and assess functional skills by coaching staff.
6	Return to sport.	Normal game play.	

maxHR = predicted maximal Heart Rate according to age (i.e., 220-age)

Age Predicted Maximal HR= 220-age	Mild Aerobic Exercise	Moderate Aerobic Exercise
55%	220-age x 0.55 = training target HR	
70%		220-age x 0.70 = training target HR

**NOTE:** \*Mild and brief exacerbation of symptoms (i.e., an increase of no more than 2 points on a 0-10 point scale for less than an hour when compared with the baseline value reported prior to physical activity). Athletes may begin Step 1 (i.e., symptom-limited activity) within 24 hours of injury, with progression through each subsequent step typically taking a minimum of 24 hours. If more than mild exacerbation of symptoms (i.e., more than 2 points on a 0-10 scale) occurs during Steps 1 -3, the athlete should stop and attempt to exercise the next day. If an athlete experiences concussion-related symptoms during Steps 4-6, they should return to Step 3 to establish full resolution of symptoms with exertion before engaging in at-risk activities. Written determination of readiness to RTS should be provided by an HCP before unrestricted RTS as directed by local laws and/or sporting regulations.