

Return to physical activity after a concussion

Baseball and softball

Stage	Activity	Baseball/softball exercises	Goal
1	Rest	Rest other than everyday walking	Promote recovery shortly after injury
2	Light aerobic activity	10 to 15 minutes of walking or stationary bike	- Add light aerobic activity - Watch if symptoms return
3	- Moderate aerobic activity - Light resistance training	20 to 30 minutes of jogging - Light weight lifting (1 set of 10 reps)	- Increase aerobic activity - Watch if symptoms return
4	- High intensity activity - Non-contact baseball or softball drills	- Sprints and agility drills - Interval throwing program, bullpen pitching, fielding ground balls, double plays, catching fly balls and pick-off attempts - Running bases, catcher coming out of the crouch and dry cuts - Hitting off the tee	- Maximize aerobic activity - Accelerate to full speed with change of directions (cuts) - Start rotational head movements - Watch if symptoms return
5	- High intensity activity - Limited contact baseball or softball drills	- Sprints, agility drills and normal weight training - Hitting off a pitching machine and moving to live batting practice	- Maximize aerobic activity - Add high intensity strength training - Add deceleration/rotational forces in controlled setting - Watch if symptoms return
6	Full practice (after cleared by a provider)	- Normal training activities - Normal scrimmages	- Frequent assessments during practice - Watch if symptoms return
7	Return to play	Normal game play	Return to normal game play

Other guidelines:

If possible, a school athletic trainer or responsible adult should monitor the student as they move through each stage.

The student:

- Should always wear a batting helmet when around the hitting/batting area.
- May start Stage 2 when symptoms are improving and they can tolerate partial school days.
- May start Stage 3 when they can tolerate full school days with NO concussion symptoms.
- May move to next stage every 24 hours as long as symptoms do not return DURING or AFTER work out.
- May NOT move to Stage 6 without written clearance from a medical provider.
- Should return to their provider if they have trouble completing these stages without symptoms.

