

ImPACT Testing Script

You are going to take a series of neuropsychological tests to establish an individual baseline of your cognitive functioning. These tests are sensitive to the effects of concussion so that when you are re-tested after a suspected concussion, we can determine the severity of your injury. This determines when you are ready to return to play. Your scores are reviewed by a neuropsychologist and a medical doctor.

Some athletes think that “sandbagging” on this test (trying not to do well) will make it easier and faster to return to play after a concussion. Unfortunately, it does not work that way. There are indices within your protocol that let us know if you are “faking bad.” If that is the case we may ask you to re-take the test. In the end, return to play can take longer if your scores don’t make clinical sense. Further, this is a research study.

These tests are difficult and challenging; you will not get 100% on every test – but try your hardest. Some tests are timed and some are not. You will not all finish at the same time. For those tests that say they are “speeded” or “timed” respond as quickly as possible since reaction time is being measured in 1/100th of a second.

In order to do your best, you should clear your mind of all other thoughts or problems....now. As with any performance, be relaxed but focused. Take some slow, deep breaths (pause for about 10 seconds).

The tests are self-explanatory. Read the directions carefully (up to three times). Raise your hand if you have questions.

(For the additional SCAT questions):

When you are finished, please answer the questions on the separate piece of paper.