

## Maple Leaf International Muzzle Loading Association (MLIMLA)

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<b>CONCUSSION AWARENESS, PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>	
<b>Policy Developed by: Ontario Council of Shooters</b>	<b>Policy Approved by: MLIMLA Board of Directors.</b>
<b>Date of Approval: July 9th, 2016</b>	<b>Date of Latest Review: June 1, 2019</b>

### **1. OBJECTIVE**

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This policy has been developed to provide a foundation for the MLIMLA to support and promote concussion prevention and management strategies within our sport.

This policy has been prepared for general informational purposes only. It is not intended to and should not constitute any medical or legal advice and does not contain any medical diagnoses, symptom assessments or medical opinions.

### **2. DEFINITION\***

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A concussion:

- is a brain injury that causes changes in how the brain functions, leading to symptoms that can be physical (e.g., headache, dizziness), cognitive (e.g., difficulty concentrating or remembering), emotional/behavioural (e.g., depression, irritability) and/or related to sleep (e.g., drowsiness, difficulty falling asleep);
- may be caused either by a direct blow to the head, face or neck, or a blow to the body that transmits a force to the head that causes the brain to move rapidly within the skull;
- can occur even if there has been no loss of consciousness (in fact most concussions occur without a loss of consciousness); and,
- cannot normally be seen on X-rays, standard CT scans or MRIs

*\*This definition adopted from the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Concussion Guidelines document available at: [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/concussions/docs/mtcs\\_concussion\\_guide\\_en.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/concussions/docs/mtcs_concussion_guide_en.pdf)*

### **3. POLICY DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES**

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The MLIMLA takes seriously the health and well-being of all participants in sport and recreation activities and is committed to helping all Canadians lead safe, healthy, active lives.

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Although our sport does not have any reported cases of concussion, the MLIMLA has a role to play in ensuring the safety of those participating in physical activity within our sport and for encouraging and motivating participants and volunteers to assume responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others.

Recognizing and responding properly to concussions when they first occur can help prevent further injury, permanent brain damage or even death. Awareness of the signs and symptoms of concussion and knowledge of how to properly manage a concussion is critical to recovery and helping to ensure the individual is not returning to physical activities too soon, risking further complications.

A concussion is a clinical diagnosis made by a medical doctor. It is critical that someone with a suspected concussion be examined by a medical doctor or nurse practitioner.

#### **4. POLICY STATEMENT**

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MLIMLA is committed to ensuring that all its stakeholders, including staff, volunteers and board members:

- Have knowledge on concussion prevention, detection and treatment
- Work, volunteer and manage an environment which minimized the risk of concussion
- Shares concussion information with its partners

#### **5. PROCEDURES/PROVISIONS**

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The MLIMLA has adopted the following guidelines from the Play Safe Initiative, available on their website at: <http://www.playsafeinitiative.ca/>

In order to better prevent the occurrence of concussions and manage the trauma if and when it occurs, MLIMLA should:

1. Be ready for an emergency

Create, communicate and practice an emergency medical plan. These plans often include contact information for local emergency medical responders and the location of trauma centres, if available.

Identify appropriately trained health care professional(s) for matches and training sessions to help assess and manage concussion and other injuries.

2. Ensure safety during activity

Although these measures may not particularly apply in general to our sport, they should be kept in mind during participation in all activities:

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Recognize that an athlete may need to be assessed for limited activities during practices and matches after a concussive incidence, in particular for younger participants.

Modify rules to limit the use of certain practice drills or techniques to help reduce the risk of injury.

Check equipment often. Make sure equipment fits well, is in good condition, is stored properly, and properly maintained.

### 3. Build the science

Collect and analyze data from the number of concussions reported by participants during the calendar competitive season.

Study or evaluate changes in concussion knowledge, awareness and action among coaches, parents and participants before and after policies are instituted or changed.

### 4. Focus on education

Post information for all participants in sport and recreation facilities and/or have information pamphlets on site should the information be required. Posted information may include concussion signs and symptoms, as well as what to do if concussion occurs.

### 5. Manage return to sport

Should a participant suffer a concussion, the organization would be wise to insist upon medical clearance before such participant returns to reengaging in their sport. This restriction should be assessed on an "as needed" and individual basis.

This policy was approved by the MLIMLA Board of Directors on \_\_\_\_ July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016.