

Appendix B: Discussion prompts for players

Have you previously seen or heard of the AFL concussion guidelines?

Where?

Have you used them before? (if 'Yes', how closely were they followed?) Does your club use them?

Questions 1-2

What are some of the advantages of using the guidelines?

What about the disadvantages?

Prompts

- How necessary is it to have guidelines for concussion?
- Would having guidelines improve the way that concussion is managed?
- How would you feel if you were removed from play with a suspected concussion?
- If you had a choice, would you follow the guidelines – why/why not?
- Are there any aspects of the guidelines that you think could be made better? (ie, same day vs follow-up vs return to play management) Why?

Questions 3-4

Who do you think would support the use of concussion guidelines?

Who would oppose the use of concussion guidelines?

Are there any particular circumstances in which certain people would not want the guidelines to be followed?

Prompts

- How would other players respond if a teammate was taken off the field because of the concussion guidelines?
- Do you think coaches/sports trainers would want to use the concussion guidelines?
- What do you think your parents/partner would think about using the concussion guidelines?

Questions 5-6

What factors do you think make it difficult to use the concussion guidelines?

What about things that make it easier to use?

Prompts

- Would it make a difference if it was a finals/important/close game?
- Would having a medical doctor available at the venue make a difference?
- Would having more knowledge about concussion symptoms make a difference?
- Would the cost/inconvenience of the GP visits make it difficult?
- Are the guidelines difficult to understand?
- What would be the most difficult component of the guidelines to adhere to? Why?

Note: It will be important to consider all of these questions in relation to the various components of the concussion guidelines associated with game-day and return-to-play management.

Layout, presentation and readability of the guidelines

1) What are your general impressions of the presentation and layout of the guidelines?

Prompts (general)

- What do you like about the presentation and layout?
- What don't you like about the presentation and layout?
- How could the presentation and layout be improved?

Prompts (specific)

- a. Are the guidelines easy to follow?
- b. What about the flow chart?
- c. What about the text describing the steps in game-day and return-to-play management?

2) Would you know why you should follow the concussion guidelines by reading the guidelines in their current form?

Prompts

- What additional information, resources or support would you need?
- What information could be left out?

3) After reading the guidelines, do you think you would know how to use and apply them?

Prompts

- What additional information, resources or support would you need?
- What information could be left out?

The guidelines are currently available on the AFL website. What would be the easiest way for you to access the guidelines?

How would you like to be informed of updates to the guidelines?

Would you prefer to have the guidelines available in a more dynamic form – YouTube, Facebook page?