

Concussion Management Program

The most important part of any Blackbirds program is safety. Our highest priority is to offer a safe environment for players to enjoy the sport that we love, One of the biggest safety concerns in youth sports today is concussion prevention and management.

To ensure we are doing everything we can to address this concern, the Blackbirds have partnered with Munster Concussion Clinic to provide FREE and MANDATORY baseline concussion testing to our members. Munster Concussion Clinic is a proven leader in the field of orthopedics and concussion management. They provide services to several area soccer and football teams, gymnasts and NHL players.

The baseline test administered by Munster Concussion Clinic is the ImPACT (Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing) test. This nationally recognized test assesses a player's decision-making ability, reaction time, verbal and visual memory and processing speed while healthy. In the event that the player suffers a head injury, the ImPACT test provides qualified medical providers the information necessary to determine the degree to which a player has been affected by an injury and the level of function that must be met before he/she returns to activity.

No player will be allowed to participate in any on-ice activities for the Midwest Blackbirds 2020/2021 Season without completing baseline testing

We understand that undergoing baseline testing before tryouts will inconvenience some members. Nevertheless, I strongly encourage you make every effort to fulfill this requirement as soon as possible. This test will not prevent a concussion; but in the unfortunate event that your child suffers a head injury, it will be the best tool you have to make sure your son or daughter fully recovers before he or she resumes activity.

How do I sign up for the free baseline test?

Register for tryouts. At the end of the tryout registration module, there will be a line to sign up for testing with Munster Concussion Clinic

How long is the ImPact Test

The test will take approximately 30 minutes.

Where is Munster Concussion Clinic located?

875 Joliet St.Dyer, IN 46311
[219-440-7340](tel:219-440-7340)

What happens if my player suffers a head injury?

If your player suffers a suspected concussion ANYWHERE (the injury does not have to be hockey-related) within a year of testing, Munster Concussion Clinic will provide follow-up testing. The follow-up test results will help determine if your player requires further treatment.

If you require additional treatment, Munster Concussion Clinic has the resources to refer you to a professional in the area who is trained in concussion management, You are not required to use one of the physicians recommended by Munster Concussion Clinic. However, if your player's follow-up test results indicate that additional treatment is necessary, the player will not be allowed to return to the ice without written clearance from a qualified medical professional.

What if my player took the ImPACT test at another facility last year?

Best practices require athletes to re-take a baseline test every year. If you have an ImPACT test on file with another facility that was taken on or after January 1, 2020, we will accept the results of that test. However, we strongly recommend that you consider retaking the test at Munster Concussion Clinic for consistency of administration.

What if I take the ImPact test and do not ultimately participate in a Blackbirds program?

If for some reason you sign up for tryouts, take a baseline test, and then decide not to participate in a Blackbirds spring program, you will still be able to get a copy of your test results for future use. There is no downside to completing a baseline test.