

MIAMI DOLPHINS QUARTERBACK TUA TAGOVAILOA VS NFL LOOPHOLE PROTOCOL, WHEN DO THE PLAYERS COME FIRST.

Many people sat and watched in horror as Miami Dolphins Quarterback Tua Tagovailoa was injured on the field playing against the Bengals on Thursday night Sept 29th, 2022. As fans looked on, the questions too on how the NFL could even allow Tagovaloa to play since he had also endured a previous concussion only days before when playing against the Buffalo Bills. There is a set of 5 Concussion protocols that are the basis of when Athletes can and can't play, but do they do the Athlete Justice? Concussion protocols state that after the Athlete rests, and then perhaps a little more rest and if there are no concussion symptoms, the athlete can start at the previous step. (But what in terms of a concussion as in symptoms can you determine in a time out?

Step 1: Back to regular activities (such as school) ...

Step 2: Light aerobic activity. ...

Step 3: Moderate activity. ...

Step 4: Heavy, non-contact activity. ...

Step 5: Practice & full contact. ...

Step 6: Competition.

The NFL has also stated. "If they see an impact to the head, they call a timeout, and the player is escorted off the field to be examined and evaluated however multiple concussions in a short period of time can cause serious neurological problems and this is where the NFL initiated their Concussion protocol. But what if the player seems fine? What if the player with adrenaline and love of the sport and not wanting to let their team mates down wants to play. What if the coach deems them fit to play , what if that physician checks them out and there are no broken bones? This is when a physician, and not an NFL physician should be called upon. Every hard hit, every downed player should immediately be taken to the hospital for evaluation. That is the least they can do. Not bench a player for a period of time and if the player seems fine then send them back in.

The NFL is there to be the portal of Entertainment. They want a winning team, and quite frankly at whose expense? I did a radio show a few years back and discussed this very issue. Football and the high probability of concussions. It's not just the player that is impacted, but the whole family. What many people do not realize is Concussions can change a person's behavior and can also change your life.

Studies have found a connection between repeated blows to the head and chronic traumatic encephalopathy or CTE. This degenerative brain disease can cause depression, anxiety, memory loss, and dementia. There have been higher instances of Domestic Violence, alcoholism, and suicide. Head trauma can also cause migraines, vision problems, instability in gait, and memory loss.

I will say it again.

"The National Football League has created policies to address head injuries, and the NFL concussion protocol is the first line of defense on game day. The protocol aims to identify and treat concussions in the NFL more quickly. During each game, there are assigned spotters who monitor the players on the field. If they see an impact to the head, they call a timeout. The player is escorted off the field to be examined and evaluated".

The 5-step return-to-participation process can be found on most websites featuring NFL content and it is stated as follows: {After being sidelined, the player must undergo a five-step process before being allowed to take the field again. The first step involves rest and limiting activities which may increase or worsen symptoms. The player may do stretching and balance activities. If the patient does not develop signs of a concussion, he may be cleared to go to the next phase.

Phase two involves the start of a graduated aerobic exercise program. He must show that he can engage in cardiovascular exercise without aggravating his symptoms.

In phase three, the player will engage in exercises that begin to mimic football-specific activities. He may also practice supervised strength training.

In the fourth phase, the patient may participate in club-based non-contact training drills. These include throwing, catching, and running.

The fifth and final phase involves taking part in full football practice, with full contact. Once the player has thoroughly practiced, the next step is being cleared by the Club physician.

After that, he must be examined by the Independent Neurological Consultant. If cleared, he will be allowed to play in the next game.}

Sounds good right?

Well not quite, because now what we have to determine is, does a football players Concussions go beyond the realm of whether the player will suffer long term damage. This brings us to a new segway, a term known as second impact syndrome. Tagovailoa is a perfect example of what occurs in second impact syndrome, and unfortunately there are more than not that have all fallen to numerous concussions impacts during their game years in the sport. It occurs when after receiving one concussion, you immediately receive another within a very short span of time. You can compare it to having your brain get shaken back and forth inside your skull and it can also be fatal. "Second impact syndrome, or SIS, happens when the brain swells rapidly shortly after a person suffers a second concussion before symptoms from an earlier concussion have subsided. This event is rare, but when it does happen, it is most often fatal. The few who do not die from such an event are usually left severely disabled for life. It is a devastating event because young, otherwise healthy patients can die within a few minutes of suffering the second concussion. Death or lifelong disability occurs because the brain suddenly loses its ability to regulate cerebral spinal fluid pressure, leading to severe swelling of the brain and possible herniation of the brain.

The impact of the second event does not have to be strong to trigger second impact syndrome. A minor blow to the head, chest or back that snaps the head enough to cause the brain to move inside the skull can trigger the usually lethal damage. Not all obviously are fatal but the damage is much more severe in terms of head pain, forgetfulness, unsteady gait, slurring, and these can last years. Any players who have suffered sever concussions and brain injuries suffer long term damage. Just because you may be walking and talking and able to get back in that game, and well, we all know that football especially where the NFL is concerned is a big money maker.

Teams get traded and swapped, as do players and a player is no good down, so herein lies the forever best play of the NFL known as the Concussion Loophole. But what is the concussion Loophole? Quite simply, it is called the "gross motor instability loophole" and it states "Under the current protocol, a player who demonstrates "gross motor instability" must be evaluated for a concussion. He can, however, return to play if the team physician and the Unaffiliated Neurotrauma Consultant conclude that the gross motor instability did not have a neurological cause." **But what of Tagovailoa?** the Miami Dolphins allowed their quarterback Tua Tagovailoa to return to play in the same game in week three of the season. After he was hit hard, he was left shaking his head and was stumbling around as he got up and tried to jog off the field. The Dolphins said, "the quarterback's instability was due to a "back injury" and allowed him to play later that same game, but we all watched another game four days later and Tagovailoa was hit again and escorted off the field on a stretcher. Loophole, "back injury" but would a back injury cause the instability, the stumbling, the disorientation?

It is beyond a doubt for those that watched, and those of us now see that it was a concussion, yet left untreated, and given a quick once over, he was ok to resume his play. This loophole has allowed players with severe head trauma, spinal issues, concussions, and yes even mild unnoticed brain injuries to continue to play, despite the finite motor issues. It is as it seems, if you can walk and talk, and you just shake it off, and nothing is broken, then you are all good.

Unfortunately for Tagovailoa, and many others, brain injuries and concussions may have symptoms that can appear hours, days and yes even weeks later. But hey the game must go on right? It was shown live when Tagovailoa was hit, not only in the first game showing his disorientation, but the most recent with the Bengels as Tagovailoa's body postured and his arms/ fingers were frozen. If that does not tell you that he suffered a very dangerous injury then NFL I am ashamed to see how the almighty dollar came in first and your players, and a star player at that got shuffled off the field, then to add insult to injury you took him on a plane! Sources say he will be out for a few games.