

**Head Injury Protocol  
European Cricket Network  
February 2024**

If a player sustains a strike to the head during play, and the on-field Umpires call for the player to be assessed, the player will be assessed by the **match day medical professional**.

An initial cognitive assessment shall take place on the field of play and a decision made by the medical professional as to whether the player is fit to continue or whether they need a further period of assessment.

Whilst each team is responsible for the welfare of its players, the decision of the medical professional is final and cannot be overturned.

If the player is deemed to need further assessment, as with any injury, a substitute fielder can take their place. For the avoidance of doubt, the substitute fielder may not bat or bowl and can keep wicket with the consent of the umpires.

The injured player can only be deemed fit to return once they have undergone a further medical assessment by the Match Day Medical Professional.

In cases where the player is deemed unfit to continue in the event, the ECN Technical Committee shall consider a request to allow an additional player to join the squad.

**In matches where there is no match day medical professional** in attendance, it will be for the Umpires, in conjunction with the Match Referee, to undertake an initial assessment. If the Umpires and the Match Referee together deem the player unfit to continue or in need of further assessment, it is the responsibility of the player's Team to secure clearance from a medical professional before the match Referee will allow the injured player to return. The Match Referee will seek clearance from the medical professional in person or in writing.

The guidelines above on substitute fielders and additional players shall apply.

All of the above has been introduced to allow players to receive the best possible treatment once they have sustained a head strike, which could lead to concussion or worse. Player safety is of paramount importance to ECN, so . . .

## **IF IN DOUBT, SIT THEM OUT**

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