



VOMITING: A BRIEF HISTORY

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9 September 2014



IN THE BEGINNING: PIAA MEMO DATED 22 SEP 95

- ▶ At the end of a scrimmage down, R notices that A1 is in the side zone vomiting. It is apparent that the player is nauseous and needs attention.
- ▶ Comment: Treat the situation as you would the unconscious player. There could be a logical reason for the vomiting, however the player must leave the game. If the referee feels that the player's situation is serious, he should not let the player return without written authorization from a physician. The referee should keep the authorization.
- ▶ If there is ever any doubt always rule on the side of safety.
- ▶ Again, for our protection, keep a copy of the authorization.



CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ Vomiting was either:
 - Based on a “logical reason,” in which case the player was allowed to return to the game, or
 - It was “serious,” in which case the player was determined to be “unconscious,” which in turn required a Doctor’s note for him to continue participating
- ▶ If in doubt, we were told to rule it was serious



THE NEXT STEP: PIAA 2011 PRE-SEASON BULLETIN

- ▶ Officials are cautioned to the handling of a player vomiting
 - The reasons for this can be numerous and it is not an immediate indicator of a serious injury
 - If a player is vomiting and this is seen by an official, it would be prudent to request the team's sideline/medical personnel take a look at this player before any official renders a decision on the player's health status
- ▶ Allow the medical staff to do what they are trained to do and stay out of making decisions on players of which officials have limited knowledge and history



CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ Vomiting, if by a player on the field, is something that we just call a time out for, and we treat the player as “injured”
- ▶ We are cautioned about “making medical decisions”



CURRENTLY

- ▶ “Nausea or vomiting” is listed as one of the 20 “Common Signs and Symptoms of Concussion”
- ▶ If you see a player on the field vomiting:
 - Call time out
 - Have the medical staff/trainer deal with the player
 - Consider the player to be injured, meaning that he must sit out one down
 - Since we have brought his condition to the attention of the medical staff, we have fulfilled our obligation
 - We should note on our game cards that we had the player taken out of the game for injury