Sport Concussion Office Assessment Tool – 6

Jon Patricios ⁽¹⁾, ¹ Geoff M Schneider, ² Jacqueline van Ierssel, ³ Laura K Purcell, ⁴ Gavin A Davis, ⁵ Ruben J Echemendia, ^{6,7} Pierre Frémont, ⁸ Gordon Ward Fuller, ⁹ Stanley Herring, ¹⁰ Kimberly G Harmon, ¹¹ Kirsten Holte, ¹² Mike Loosemore, ¹³ Michael Makdissi, ^{14,15} Michael McCrea, ¹⁶ William P Meehan, III, ^{17,18} Patrick O'Halloran, ^{19,20} Zahra Premji, ²¹ Margot Putukian, ²² Isla Jordan Shill, ²³ Michael Turner, ^{24,25} Kenzie Vaandering, ²⁶ Nick Webborn, ²⁷ Keith Owen Yeates, ²⁸ Kathryn J Schneider²³

Sport Concussion Office As	sessment Tool				
or Adults & Adolescents (13 years	+)				
What is the SCOAT6?*					
e SCOAT6 is a tool for evaluating concussion in a controlled fice environment by Health Care Professionals (HCP) typically m 72 hours (3 days) following a sport-related concussion.	Brief verbal instructions for some components of the SCOAT are included. Detailed instructions for use of the SCOAT6 are provided in an accompanying document. Please read throug these instructions carefully before using the SCOAT6.				
The diagnosis of concussion is a clinical determination made by an HCP. The various components of the SCOAT6 may assist with the clinical assessment and help guide individualised management. The SCOAT6 is used for evaluating athletes aged 13 years and older. For children aged 12 years or younger, please use the Child SCOAT6.	This tool may be freely copied in its current form for distribution to individuals, teams, groups, and organisations Any alteration (including translations and digital re formatting), re-branding, or sale for commercial gain is no permissible without the expressed written consent of BM and the Concussion in Sport Group (CISG).				
Completion Guide Blue: Complete only at first assessment Green: Recommended	ed part of assessment Orange: Optional part of assessment				
Athlete's Name:					
Date of Birth: Sex: Male Fe	emale Prefer Not To Say Other				
Sport:					
Occupational or Educational Status:					
Current or Highest Educational Level or Qualification Achiev	red:				
Examiner:	Date of Examination:				

* In reviewing studies informing the SCOAT6 and Child SCOAT6, the period defined for the included papers was 3–30 days. HCPs may choose to use the SCOAT6 beyond this timeframe but should be aware of the parameters of the review.



Correspondence to Professor Jon Patricios, Wits Sport and Health (WiSH), School of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg-Braamfontein 2193, South Africa; jpat@mweb.co.za





port Concussion Office Assessment Tool 6 - SCOAT6™								
SCOAT	6 TM Spo For A	port Concussion Office Assessment Tool or Adults & Adolescents (13 years +)						
Current Injury								
Removal From Play: Date of Injury: Description - include n	Immediate [Walked off [nechanism of injury,	Continued to Assisted off presentation, managemen		Stretchered off	etory of care since inju	ıry:		
Date Symptoms First	Appeared:		Date Symptor	ns First Reported:				

History of Head Injuries

Date/Year	Description - include mechanism of injury, presentation, management since the time of injury and trajectory of care since injury	Management - including time off work, school sport

History of	Anv Neurological	. Psychological. Ps	ychiatric or Learning Disorders
		, ,	Jennanie ei _eaning _ieeineie

Diagnosis	Year Diagnosed	Management Including Medication
Migraine		
Chronic headache		
Depression		
Anxiety		
Syncope		
Epilepsy/seizures		
Attention deficit hyper- activity disorder (ADHD)		
Learning disorder/ dyslexia		
Other		

For use by Health Care Professionals only

Sport Concussion Office Assessment Tool 6 - SCOAT6™

List All Current Medications - including over-the-counter, naturopathic and supplements

ltem	Dose	Frequency	Reason Taken

Family History of Any Diagnosed Neurological, Psychological, Psychiatric, Cognitive or Developmental Disorders

Family Member	Diagnosis	Management Including Medication
	Depression	
	Anxiety	
	Attention deficit hyper- activity disorder (ADHD)	
	Learning disorder/ dyslexia	
	Migraine	
	Other	
Additional Notes:		
		British Journal of

For use by Health Care Professionals only

Sports Medicine

Symptom Evaluation

Please rate your symptoms below based on how you feel now with "1" representing a very mild symptom and "6" representing a severe symptom.

	0 None	1 Mild	2 3 Moderate	4 5 Sever	e 6	
			D	ate of Assessmen	nt	
Symptom		Pre-injury	Day injured (date)	Consult 1	Consult 2	Consult 3
		Rating	Rating	Rating	Rating	Rating
Headaches						
Pressure in head						
Neck pain						
Nausea or vomiting						
Dizziness						
Blurred vision						
Balance problems						
Sensitivity to light						
Sensitivity to noise						
Feeling slowed down						
Feeling like "in a fog"						
Difficulty concentrating						
Difficulty remembering						
Fatigue or low energy						
Confusion						
Drowsiness						
More emotional						
Irritability						
Sadness						
Nervous or anxious						
Sleep disturbance						
Abnormal heart rate						
Excessive sweating						
Other						
						Britich Journal of

For use by Health Care Professionals only

Sport Concussion Office Assessment Tool 6 - SCOAT6™

Symptom Evaluation (Continued)

	Date of Assessment									
Symptom	Pre-injury	Day injured (date)	Consult 1	Consult 2	Consult 3					
	Rating	Rating	Rating	Rating	Rating					
Do symptoms worsen with physical activity?										
Do symptoms worsen with cognitive (thinking) activity?										
Symptom number										
Symptom severity score										
What percentage of normal do you feel?										

Verbal Cognitive Tests

Immediate Memory

All 3 trials must be administered irrespective of the number correct on Trial 1. Administer at the rate of one word per second in a monotone voice.

Trial 1: Say "I am going to test your memory. I will read you a list of words and when I am done, repeat back as many words as you can remember, in any order."

Trials 2 and 3: Say "I am going to repeat the same list. Repeat back as many words as you can remember in any order, even if you said the word before in a previous trial."

Word list used: A B C							Alternate Lists		
List A	Tria	al 1	Trial 2 Trial 3		al 3	List B	List C		
Jacket	0	1	0	1	0	1	Finger	Baby	
Arrow	0	1	0	1	0	1	Penny	Monkey	
Pepper	0	1	0	1	0	1	Blanket	Perfume	
Cotton	0	1	0	1	0	1	Lemon	Sunset	
Movie	0	1	0	1	0	1	Insect	Iron	
Dollar	0	1	0	1	0	1	Candle	Elbow	
Honey	0	1	0	1	0	1	Paper	Apple	
Mirror	0	1	0	1	0	1	Sugar	Carpet	
Saddle	0	1	0	1	0	1	Sandwich	Saddle	
Anchor	0	1	0	1	0	1	Wagon	Bubble	
Trial Total									
Immediate Memory Total c	mmediate Memory Total of 30								
Time last trial completed:									

For use by Health Care Professionals only

Verbal Cognitive Tests: Alternate 15-word lists

Alternate 15-word lists may be accessed by scanning or clicking the QR code.

Record the total below.

Total _____ of 45

Digits Backwards

Administer at the rate of one digit per second in a monotone voice reading DOWN the selected column. If a string is completed correctly, move on to the string with next higher number of digits; if the string is completed incorrectly, use the alternate string with the same number of digits; if this is failed again, end the test.

Say "I'm going to read a string of numbers and when I am done, you repeat them back to me in reverse order of how I read them to you. For example, if I say 7-1-9, you would say 9-1-7. So, if I said 9-6-8 you would say? 8-6-9"

Digit list used: A	ВСС					
List A	List B	List C				
4-9-3	5-2-6	1-4-2	Y	N	0	1
6-2-9	4-1-5	6-5-8	Y	N	U	1
3-8-1-4	1-7-9-5	6-8-3-1	Y	Ν	0	1
3-2-7-9	4-9-6-8	3-4-8-1	Y	N	Ū	1
6-2-9-7-1	4-8-5-2-7	4-9-1-5-3	Y	N	0	1
1-5-2-8-6	6-1-8-4-3	6-8-2-5-1	Y	N	Ū	'
7-1-8-4-6-2	8-3-1-9-6-4	3-7-6-5-1-9	Y	N	0	1
5-3-9-1-4-8	7-2-4-8-5-6	9-2-6-5-1-4	Y	Ν	Ū	
				Digits score	e	of 4

Months in Reverse Order

Say "Now tell me the months of the year in reverse order as QUICKLY and as accurately as possible. Start with the last month and go backward. So, you'll say December, November... go ahead"

Start stopwatch and CIRCLE each correct response:

December	November	October	September	Augus	t July	June	Мау	April	March	February	January
Time Taken	to Complete (secs):			(N <30 se	ec)	Nun	ber of l	Errors:		

-=----

Examination

Orthostatic Vital Signs							
The first blood pressure and heart rate measurements are taken after the patient lies supine on the examination table for at least 2 minutes. The patient is then asked to stand up without support and with both feet firmly on the ground and the second measurements are taken after standing for 1 minute. Ask the patient if they experience any dizziness or light-headedness upon standing (initial orthostatic intolerance) or by one minute (orthostatic intolerance).							
Orthostatic Vital Signs	Suj	oine	Standing (after 1 minute)				
Blood Pressure (mmHg)							
Heart Rate (bpm)							
Symptoms ¹ Dizziness or light-headedness Fainting Blurred or fading vision Nausea Fatigue Lack of concentration 	No	Yes	No Yes				
Results		Normal	Abnormal				
Test results are deemed clinically significant if they include at least one of the following AND symptoms: (1) systolic BP drop of ≥ 20mmHg or (2) diastolic BP drop of ≥ 10mmHg (3) HR decreases (4) HR increases by > 30bpm Cervical Spine Assessment							
Cervical Spine Assessment							
Cervical Spine Assessment Cervical Spine Palpati	on		Signs and Symptoms				
	on	Normal	Signs and Symptoms				
Cervical Spine Palpati	on						
Cervical Spine Palpati Muscle Spasm	on	Normal	Abnormal				
Cervical Spine Palpati Muscle Spasm Midline Tenderness		Normal	Abnormal				
Cervical Spine Palpati Muscle Spasm Midline Tenderness Paravertebral Tenderness		Normal	Abnormal Abnormal Abnormal				
Cervical Spine Palpati Muscle Spasm Midline Tenderness Paravertebral Tenderness Cervical Active Range of I		Normal Normal Normal	Abnormal Abnormal Abnormal Abnormal Result				
Cervical Spine Palpati Muscle Spasm Midline Tenderness Paravertebral Tenderness Cervical Active Range of I Flexion (50-70°)		Normal Normal Normal Normal Normal	Abnormal Abnormal Abnormal Abnormal Result Abnormal				
Cervical Spine Palpati Muscle Spasm Midline Tenderness Paravertebral Tenderness Cervical Active Range of I Flexion (50-70°) Extension (60-85°)		Normal Normal Normal Normal Normal Normal Normal Normal	Abnormal Abnormal Abnormal Abnormal Abnormal Abnormal Abnormal Abnormal				
Cervical Spine Palpati Muscle Spasm Image: Cervical Active Range of R Midline Tenderness Image: Cervical Active Range of R Extension (50-70°) Image: Cervical Active Range of R Flexion (60-85°) Image: Cervical Flexion (40-50°)		Normal Normal Normal Normal Normal Normal Normal Normal Normal	Abnormal Abnormal Abnormal Abnormal Abnormal Abnormal Abnormal Abnormal Abnormal				

For use by Health Care Professionals only

British Journal of Sports Medicine

657

Br J Sports Med: first published as 10.1136/bjsports-2023-106859 on 14 June 2023. Downloaded from http://bjsm.bmj.com/ on June 14, 2023 by guest. Protected by copyright.

Sport Concussion Office Assessment Tool 6 - SCOAT6™								
Neurological Exam	Neurological Examination							
Cranial Nerves Normal Notes:	Abnormal	Not teste	d					
Other Neurologic	al Findings							
Limb Tone:	Normal	Abnormal		Not tested				
Strength:	Normal	Abnormal		Not tested				
Deep Tendon Reflexes:	Normal	Abnormal		Not tested				
Sensation:	Normal	Abnormal		Not tested				
Cerebellar Function:	Normal	Abnormal		Not tested				
Comments:								
Balance								
Barefoot on a firm surface	with or without foam mat.							
Foot Tested: Left	Right (i.e. test the n	on-dominant	foot)					
Modified BESS			On Foam					
Double Leg Stance:	of 10		Double Leg S	tance:	of 10			
Tandem Stance:	of 10		Tandem Stand	ce:	of 10			
Single Leg Stance:	of 10		Single Leg St	ance:	of 10			

Timed Tandem Gait

Total Errors:

Place a 3-metre-long line on the floor/firm surface with athletic tape.

of 30

Say "Please walk heel-to-toe quickly to the end of the tape, turn around and come back as fast as you can without separating your feet or stepping off the line."

Total Errors:

Time to Complete Tandem Gait Walking (seconds)								
Trial 1	Trial 2	Tri	ial 3	Average	3 Trials	Fastest Trial		
Abnormal/failed to comp	olete	Unstable/sway	Fall	l/over-step		Dizzy/nauseous		
r use by Health Care Profe	essionals only					British Journ Sports I		

of 30

Br J Sports Med: first published as 10.1136/bjsports-2023-106859 on 14 June 2023. Downloaded from http://bjsm.bmj.com/ on June 14, 2023 by guest. Protected by copyright.

Editorial

Cnort	Conquesion	Office	Accoment	Tool	CCOATGIM
Sport	Concussion	Once	Assessment	10010	5 - SCOAT6™

ort Concussion Office As	sessment To	ol 6 - SCOAT	⁻ 6 ^{тм}					-[=
Complex Tandem	Gait							
Forward								
Say "Please walk heel- each step off the line, 1						eyes closed	for five steps	"1 point for
orward Eyes Open		Points:						
orward Eyes Closed		Points:						
I	Forward Tot	al Points:						
Backward Say "Please walk heel-to-toe again, backwards five steps eyes open, then continue backwards five steps with eyes closed." 1 point for each step off the line, 1 point for truncal sway or holding onto an object for support.								
ackward Eyes Open		Points:						
ackward Eyes Closed		Points:						
Ва	ackward Tot	al Points:						
Total Points (F	orward + Ba	ackward):						
	official a be	ioninal a):						
ual Task Gait								
ay "Now, while you ar out loud by 7s (for inst	-		-		-			t backwards
select one cognitive tas	k). Allow for a	a verbal pract	·		task selecte	d.	1	
T : 14	MOLT		_	ive Tasks	MOULOF	DANOF		
Trial 1 (Words - spell backwards)	VISIT	ALERT	FENCE	BRAVE	MOUSE	DANCE	CRAWL	LEARN
OR Trial 2 (Subtract serial 7s)	95	88	81	74	67	60	53	46
OR Trial 3 (Months backwards)	December	November C	october Septe	mber August	July June	May April I	March Februa	ry January
efore attempting the ime. Are you ready?"	dual task: "	Good. Now	l will ask you	ı to walk hee	l-to-toe call	ing the answ	vers out loud	at the same
umber of Trials Attem	pted:		Number of C	orrect Trials:		Averaç	ge Time (s):	
ognitive Accuracy Sc	ore (Numbe	Correct / N	umber Attem	pted):				
omments:								

For use by Health Care Professionals only

Modified Vestibular/Ocular-Motor Screening (mVOMS) for Concussion

For detailed instructions please see the Supplement.

mVOMS	Not Tested	Headache	Dizziness	Nausea	Fogginess	Comments
Baseline symptoms	N/A					
Smooth pursuits (2 horizontal and 2 vertical, 2 seconds to go full distance right-left and back; up-down and back)						
Saccades – Horizontal (10 times each direction)						
VOR – Horizontal (10 repetitions) (metronome set at 180 beats per minute – change direction at each beep, wait 10 secs to ask symptoms)						
VMS (x 5, 80° rotation side to side) (at 50 bpm, change direction each beep, wait 10 secs to ask symptoms)						

Anxiety Screen

Not Done

Assign scores of 0, 1, 2, and 3 to the response categories, respectively, of "not at all," "several days," "more than half the days," and "nearly every day."

Over the last 2 weeks, ho bothered by any of the	Not at all	Several days	More than half the days	Nearly every day	
1. Feeling nervous, anxious	0	1	2	3	
2. Not being able to stop or	0	1	2	3	
3. Worrying too much about	0	1	2	3	
4. Trouble relaxing	0	1	2	3	
5. Being so restless that it's	5. Being so restless that it's hard to sit still			2	3
6. Becoming easily annoyed	0	1	2	3	
7. Feeling afraid as if somet	0	1	2	3	
Anxiety Screen Score:	al anxiety erate anxiety	5–9: mild anxiety 15–21: severe an:			

Depression Screen

Not Done

The purpose is to screen for depression in a "first-step" approach. Patients who screen positive should be further evaluated with the <u>PHQ-9</u> to determine whether they meet criteria for a depressive disorder.

Over the last 2 weeks, how often have you been bothered by any of the following problems?	Not at all	Several days	More than half the days	Nearly every day			
1. Little interest or pleasure in doing things	0	1	2	3			
2. Feeling down, depressed or hopeless	0	1	2	3			
Depression Screen Score: (Ranges from 0-6, 3 being the cutpoint to screen for depression)							

For use by Health Care Professionals only

British Journal of Sports Medicine

+

Sport Concussion Office Assessment Tool 6 - SCOAT6™

Sleep Screen	
Not Done	
1. During the past week how many hours of actual sleep did you get at night? (This may be different than the number of hours you spent in bed.)	
5 to 6 hours	4
6 to 7 hours	3
7 to 8 hours	2
8 to 9 hours	1
More than 9 hours	0

2. How satisfied/dissatisfied were you with the quality of your sleep?	
Very dissatisfied	4
Somewhat dissatisfied	3
Somewhat satisfied	2
Satisfied	1
Very satisfied	0

3. During the recent past, how long has it usually taken you to fall asleep each night?	
Longer than 60 minutes	3
31-60 minutes	2
16-30 minutes	1
15 minutes or less	0

4. How often do you have trouble staying asleep?	
Five to seven times a week	3
Three of four times a week	2
Once or twice a week	1
Never	0

3
2
1
0

Sleep Screen Score:

A higher sleep disorder score (SDS) indicates a greater likelihood of a clinical sleep disorder:

0-4 (Normal)

5-7 (Mild)

8-10 (Moderate)

11-17 (Severe)

For use by Health Care Professionals only

British Journal of Sports Medicine

661

Delayed Word Recall

Minimum of 5 minutes after immediate recall

Say "Do you remember that list of words I read a few times earlier? Tell me as many words from the list as you can remember in any order."

Word list used: A B		Alterna	ate Lists
List A	Score	List B	List C
Jacket	0 1	Finger	Baby
Arrow	0 1	Penny	Monkey
Pepper	0 1	Blanket	Perfume
Cotton	0 1	Lemon	Sunset
Movie	0 1	Insect	Iron
Dollar	0 1	Candle	Elbow
Honey	0 1	Paper	Apple
Mirror	0 1	Sugar	Carpet
Saddle	0 1	Sandwich	Saddle
Anchor	0 1	Wagon	Bubble

Score:

Record Actual Time (mins) Since Completing Immediate Recall:

Computerised Cognitive Test Results (if used)

of 10

Not Done

Test Battery Used:

Recent Baseline - if performed (Date):

Post-Injury Result (Rest):

Post-Injury Result (Post-Exercise Stress):

Graded Aerobic Exercise Test



Exclude contra-indications: cardiac condition, respiratory disease, significant vestibular symptoms, motor dysfunction, lower limb injuries, cervical spine injury.

Protocol Used:

Overall Assessment

Summary:

British Journal of Sports Medicine

+

port Concussion Office Assessment Tool 6 - S	SCOAT6™	-=
Management and Follow-up Pla	an	
Cervical or brain imaging (X-rays/CT/MRI)		
Imaging Requested:		
Reason:		
Findings:		
Recommendations regarding return to:		
Class:		
Work:		
Driving:		
Sport:		
(See revised graduated return-to-learn and r	eturn-to-sport guidelines)	
Referral		
Further assessment, intervention or manage	ment	
Assessment by:	Name:	
Athletic Trainer/Therapist		
Exercise Physiologist		
Neurologist		
Neuropsychologist		
Neurosurgeon		
Opthalmologist		
Optometrist		
Paediatrician		
Physiatrist/Rehab Phys		
Physiotherapist		
Psychologist		
Psychiatrist		
Sport and Exercise Medicine Phys		
Other		
Pharmacotherapy Prescribed:		
r namiacoulerapy riescribeu.		
Date of Review:	Date of Follow-up:	

For use by Health Care Professionals only

Additional Clinical Notes

Return-to-Learn (RTL) Strategy

Facilitating RTL is a vital part of the recovery process for student-athletes. HCPs should work with stakeholders on education and school policies to facilitate academic support, including accommodations/learning adjustments for students with SRC when needed. Academic support should address risk factors for greater RTL duration (e.g., social determinants of health, higher symptom burden) by adjusting environmental, physical, curricular, and testing factors as needed. Not all athletes will need a RTL strategy or academic support. If symptom exacerbation occurs during cognitive activity or screen time, or difficulties with reading, concentration, or memory or other aspects of learning are reported, clinicians should consider implementation of a RTL strategy at the time of diagnosis and during the recovery process. When the RTL strategy is implemented, it can begin following an initial period of relative rest (Step1: 24-48 hrs), with an incremental increase in cognitive load (Steps 2 to 4). Progression through the strategy is symptom limited (i.e., no more than a mild exacerbation of current symptoms related to the current concussion) and its course may vary across individuals based on tolerance and symptom resolution. Further, while the RTL and RTS strategies can occur in parallel, student-athletes should complete full RTL before unrestricted RTS.

Step	Mental Activity	Activity at Each Step	Goal
1	Daily activities that do not result in more than a mild exacerbation* of symptoms related to the current concussion.	Typical activities during the day (e.g., reading) while minimizing screen time. Start with 5–15 min at a time and increase gradually.	Gradual return to typical activities.
2	School activities.	Homework, reading, or other cognitive activities outside of the classroom.	Increase tolerance to cognitive work.
3	Return to school part time.	Gradual introduction of schoolwork. May need to start with a partial school day or with greater access to rest breaks during the day.	Increase academic activities.
4	Return to school full time.	Gradually progress school activities until a full day can be tolerated without more than mild* symptom exacerbation.	Return to full academic activities and catch up on missed work.

NOTE: Following an initial period of relative rest (24-48 hours following injury at Step 1), athletes can begin a gradual and incremental increase in their cognitive load. Progression through the strategy for students should be slowed when there is more than a mild and brief symptom exacerbation.

*Mild and brief exacerbation of symptoms is defined as an increase of no more than 2 points on a 0-10 point scale (with 0 representing no symptoms and 10 the worst symptoms imaginable) for less than an hour when compared with the baseline value reported prior to sh Journ cognitive activity For use by Health Care Professionals only **Sports Medicine**

Br J Sports Med: first published as 10.1136/bjsports-2023-106859 on 14 June 2023. Downloaded from http://bjsm.bmj.com/ on June 14, 2023 by guest. Protected by copyright

Sport Concussion Office Assessment Tool 6 - SCOAT6™

Return-to-Sport (RTS) Strategy

Return to sport participation after an SRC follows a graduated stepwise strategy, an example of which is outlined in Table 2. RTS occurs in conjunction with return to learn (see RTL strategy) and under the supervision of a qualified HCP. Following an initial period of relative rest (Step 1: approximately 24-48 hours), clinicians can implement Step 2 [i.e., light (Step 2A) and then moderate (Step 2B) aerobic activity] of the RTS strategy as a treatment of acute concussion. The athlete may then advance to steps 3-6 on a time course dictated by symptoms, cognitive function, clinical findings, and clinical judgement. Differentiating early activity (step 1), aerobic exercise (Step 2), and individual sport-specific exercise (Step 3) as part of the treatment of SRC from the remainder of the RTS progression (Steps 4-6) can be useful for the athlete and their support network (e.g., parents, coaches, administrators, agents). Athletes may be moved into the later stages that involve risk of head impact (Steps 4-6 and Step 3 if there is any risk of head impact with sport-specific activity) of the RTS strategy following authorization by the HCP and after resolution of any new symptoms, abnormalities in cognitive function, and clinical findings related to the current concussion. Each step typically takes at least 24 hours. Clinicians and athletes can expect a minimum of 1 week to complete the full rehabilitation strategy, but typical unrestricted RTS can take up to one month post-SRC. The time frame for RTS may vary based on individual characteristics, necessitating an individualized approach to clinical management. Athletes having difficulty progressing through the RTS strategy or with symptoms and signs that are not progressively recovering beyond the first 2-4 weeks may benefit from rehabilitation and/or involvement of a multidisciplinary team of HCP experienced in managing SRC. Medical determination of readiness, including psychological readiness, to return to at-risk activities should occur prior to returning to any activities at risk of contact, collision or fall (e.g. multiplayer training drills), which may be required prior to any of steps 3-6, depending on the nature of the sport or activity that the athlete is returning to and in keeping with local laws/requirements.

Step	Exercise Strategy	Activity at Each Step	Goal	
1	Symptom-limited activity.	Daily activities that do not exacerbate symptoms (e.g., walking).	Gradual reintroduction of work/school.	
2	Aerobic exercise 2A – Light (up to approx. 55% max HR) then 2B – Moderate (up to approximately 70% max HR)	Stationary cycling or walking at slow to medium pace. May start light resistance training that does not result in more than mild and brief exacerbation* of concussion symptoms.	Increase heart rate.	
3	Individual sport-specific exercise NOTE: if sport-specific exercise involves any risk of head impact, medical determination of readiness should occur prior to step 3.	Sport-specific training away from the team environment (e.g., running, change of direction and/or individual training drills away from the team environment). No activities at risk of head impact.	Add movement, change of direction.	
Steps 4-6 should begin after resolution of any symptoms, abnormalities in cognitive function, and any other clinical findings related to the current concussion, including with and after physical exertion.				
4	Non-contact training drills.	Exercise to high intensity including more challenging training drills (e.g., passing drills, multiplayer training). Can integrate into team environment.	Resume usual intensity of exercise, coordination, and increased thinking.	
5	Full contact practice.	Participate in normal training activities.	Restore confidence and assess functional skills by coaching staff.	
6	Return to sport.	Normal game play.		

maxHR = predicted maximal Heart Rate according to age (i.e., 220-age)

Age Predicted Maximal HR= 220-age	Mild Aerobic Exercise	Moderate Aerobic Exercise
55%	220-age x 0.55 = training target HR	
70%		220-age x 0.70 = training target HR

NOTE: *Mild and brief exacerbation of symptoms (i.e., an increase of no more than 2 points on a 0-10 point scale for less than an hour when compared with the baseline value reported prior to physical activity). Athletes may begin Step 1 (i.e., symptom-limited activity) within 24 hours of injury, with progression through each subsequent step typically taking a minimum of 24 hours. If more than mild exacerbation of symptoms (i.e., more than 2 points on a 0-10 scale) occurs during Steps 1 -3, the athlete should stop and attempt to exercise the next day. If an athlete experiences concussion-related symptoms during Steps 4-6, they should return to Step 3 to establish full resolution of symptoms with exertion before engaging in at-risk activities. Written determination of readiness to RTS should be provided by an HCP before unrestricted RTS as directed by local laws and/or sporting regulations.

Editorial

¹Wits Sport and Health (WiSH), School of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa ²Department of Radiology, University of Calgary,

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

³Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

⁴Department of Padiatrics, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

⁵Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Parkville, Victoria, Australia

⁶Psychology, University of Missouri Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri, USA

⁷University Orthopedics Concussion Care Clinic, State College Area School District, State College, Stage College, Pennsylvania, USA

⁸Rehabilitation, Laval University, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

⁹School of Health and Related Research, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK

¹⁰Departments of Rehabilitation Medicine,

Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine and Neurological Surgery, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA

¹¹Department of Family Medicine, University of

Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA ¹²Department of Kinesiology, University of Calgary,

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

¹³Institute for Sport Exercise and Health, University Collage Hospital London, London, UK

¹⁴Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health - Austin Campus, Heidelberg, Victoria, Australia

¹⁵La Trobe Sport and Exercise Medicine Research Centre, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

¹⁶Neurosurgery, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

¹⁷Sports Medicine, Children's Hospital Boston, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

¹⁸Emergency Medicine, Children's Hospital Boston, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

¹⁹Neurotrauma and Ophthalmology Research Group, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK

²⁰Health Education England West Midlands, Edgbaston, UK

²¹Libraries, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

²²Chief Medical Officer, Major League Soccer, New York, New York, USA

²³Sport Injury Prevention Research Centre, Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

²⁴International Concussion and Head Injury Research Foundation, Tottenham Court Road, London, UK

²⁵University College London, London, UK

²⁶University of Calgary Faculty of Kinesiology, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

²⁷Medical Committee, International Paralympic

Committee, Bonn, Germany

²⁸Department of Psychology, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Twitter Jon Patricios @jonpatricios

Contributors JSP conceived the format of the Sports Concussion Office Assessment Tool and created the first version (SCOAT6). The concept of the tool was presented at the 6th International Conference on Concussion in Sport, Amsterdam, October 2022. The SCOAT6 content was discussed at a dedicated Tools workshop at the conference and JSP tasked with creating the next iteration. These have been shared with coauthors of an accompanying editorial The Sports Concussion Office Assessment Tool 6 (SCOAT6): Background, rationale and development" who have made edits until this submitted version was finalised. **Funding** The authors have not declared a specific grant for this research from any funding agency in the public, commercial or not-for-profit sectors.

Competing interests GAD is a member of the Scientific Committee of the 6th International Consensus Conference on Concussion in Sport; an honorary member of the AFL Concussion Scientific Committee; Section Editor, Sport and Rehabilitation. NEUROSURGERY; and has attended meetings organised by sporting organisations including the NFL, NRL, IIHF, IOC and FIFA; however, has not received any payment, research funding or other monies from these groups other than for travel costs. RJE is a paid consultant for the NHL and co-chair of the NHL/ NHLPA Concussion Subcommittee. He is also a paid consultant and chair of the Major League Soccer concussion committee, and a consultant to the US Soccer Federation. He previously served as a neuropsychology consultant to Princeton University Athletic Medicine and EyeGuide. He is currently a co-PI for a grant funded by the NFL (NFL-Long) through Boston Children's Hospital. He occasionally provides expert testimony in matters related to MTBI and sports concussion, and occasionally receives honoraria and travel support/reimbursement for professional meetings. PF is a coinvestigator on a research grant from the NFL's 'Play Smart. PlaySafe.' Initiative and an Executive committee member of the Canadian Concussion Network (financed by the Canadian Institute of Health Research). He received honorarium for an Expert group discussion on blood biomarkers for concussion in December 2020. GWF has received travel expenses to attend academic meetings from World Rugby. He has also collaborated on research projects with World Rugby as chief or co-investigator. He is previous associate editor of the British Journal of Sports Medicine. He has not received any other payments or support from any sporting or commercial bodies. He has no other conflicts of interest. KGH is Research Development Director, Pac-12 Conference Member. Pac-12 Brain Trauma Task Force Member, NFL Head Neck and Spine Committee Deputy Editor, British Journal of Sports Medicine Head Football Physician, University of Washington Dr. K. Alix Hayden has nothing to disclose. SAH Co-founder and senior advisor, The Sports Institute at UW Medicine (unpaid), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Board Pediatric Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Guideline Workgroup (unpaid), Concussion in Sport Group (travel support), NCAA Concussion Safety Advisory Group (unpaid), Team Physician, Seattle Mariners, Former Team Physician, Seattle Seahawks, occasional payment for expert testimony, travel support for professional meetings ML is the CMO GB Boxing, CMO GB Snowsports. NE Director GB Taekwondo. NE Director SWA (share options). Director Active Movement. Director GB Obstacle course racing. Founder and medical board member of Safe MMA. Director of Marylebone Health Group. Private medical practice at ISEH 170 Tottenham Court Road. Private medical practice Marylebone Health Group. MMa Sport and exercise medicine physician working in private consulting practice. Shareholder of Olympic Park Sports Medicine Centre in Melbourne. Ex-senior physician at the Hawthorn Football Club (AFL) Ex-Chief Executive Officer of the AFL Doctors Association. Research grants received from the Australian Football League, outside the submitted work. Travel support received from the Australian Football League, FIFA and the International Olympic Committee to attend and present at international conferences. Member of the Scientific Committee for the 6th International Consensus Conference on Concussion in Sport. Honorary member of the International Concussion in Sport Group. Honorary member of the Australian Rugby Union Concussion Advisory Group. Independent Concussion Consultant for World Rugby. MMc has received

research funding to the Medical College of Wisconsin from the National Institutes of Health, Department of Veterans Affairs, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Defense, National Collegiate Athletic Association, National Football League, and Abbott Laboratories. He receives book royalties from Oxford University Press. He serves as clinical consultant to Milwaukee Bucks, Milwaukee Brewers, and Green Bay Packers, and is Co-Director of the NFL Neuropsychology Consultants without compensation. He serves as consultant for Neurotrauma Sciences. He receives travel support and speaker honorariums for professional activities. JP is an editor of BJSM for which he receives an honorarium. He is an unpaid consultant to the World Rugby Concussion Advisory Group for which he also serves as an Independent Concussion Advisor (fee per consultation). Other unpaid positions include being medical advisor to South African Rugby, Co-chair of the Scientific Committee, 6th International Conference on Concussion in Sport (travel and accommodation subsidised), Board member of the Concussion in Sport Group and a Scientific Advisory Board member of EveGuideTM. ZP No COI to declare. LP CASEM Board Member, President-Elect 2022-2023NIH R34 Grant for EPICC Study (Eve Problems In Concussed Children), Site PISpeaker at various conferences. MP is a consultant and Chief Medical Officer of Major League Soccer, and serves as a Senior Advisor, for the National Football Leagues' Head, Neck & Spine Committee. She serves as a member for the FA Research Task Force, the US Soccer Medical Advisory Committee and the NOCSAE Scientific Advisory Committee. She has served as a member of the UK Concussion Foundation Protocol Forum, as a consultant for the CDC Concussion work, as an expert panel member of the Concussion in Sport Group. She is part of the IOC Mental Health Working Group, and the USOPC Mental Health Advisory Committee. She serves as a Team Physician for US Soccer, has received funding for concussion research (NCAA-CARE-DoD 2.0, ended 2020), has received honoraria and reimbursement for travel for speaking and conferences, has written chapters for UpToDate, received royalties for the Netter's Sports Medicine textbook and has provided work as an expert for cases involving concusports medicine topics. GMS is an owner of a multidisciplinary practice (managinsion, team physician and other sq patients with MSKpain disorders). He is a board member of Hockey Calgary (Calgary, AB, Canada) and Chair of the Alberta Association of Physiotherapy. He received funding for the administrative aspects of the writing of two of the systematic reviews that informed the consensus process. KJS has received grant funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, National Football League Scientific Advisory Board, International Olympic Committee Medical and Scientific Research Fund, World Rugby, Mitacs Accelerate, University of Calgary) with funds paid to her institution and not to her personally. She is an Associate Editor of BJSM (unpaid) and has received travel and accommodation support for meetings where she has presented. She is coordinating the writing of the systematic reviews that will inform the 6th International Consensus on Concussion in Sport, for which she has received an educational grant to assist with the administrative costs associated with the writing of the reviews. She is a member of the AFL Concussion Scientific Committee (unpaid position) and Brain Canada (unpaid positions). She works as a physiotherapy consultant and treats athletes of all levels of sport from grass roots to professional. MT is employed full-time as the CEO and Medical Director of ICHIRF-a paid post he has held since April 2015. Hon Medical Adviser to the Professional Riders Insurance Scheme (PRIS)discretionary honorarium Member of the Premier League Head Injury Advisory Group (HIAG)-no remuneration Director of ICHIRF Ireland-no remuneration Honorary Medical Adviser to the

Concussion Foundation—no remuneration Member of the expert panel for the Dept of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport review into concussion in amateur sport-no remuneration Attendance at conferences or meetings as a quest speaker-reimbursement of travel expenses, complimentary registration and payment of hotel accommodation and meals by the organising committee No stocks or options in any concussionrelated company No consultancies, board or editorial positions related to concussion. Jvl is the founder of R2P Concussion Management. NW is Chair, British Paralympic Association (voluntary) IPC Medical Committee Member (voluntary) Concussion in Para Sports (CIPS), founding member (voluntary) BJSM Editorial Board member (voluntary) Sports Horizon, Board of Directors—equity share—see https://www. sportshorizon.co.uk KOY is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal Neuropsychology and receives an editorial stipend from the American Psychological Association. He is an unpaid consulting editor for the journals Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology and Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation. He is an unpaid member of the Scientific Advisory Committee for Brain Injury Canada. He is the chair of the Canadian Concussion Network, which is funded by a grant from Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to his institution; he is the principal applicant on the grant but receives no income from it. He is a principal investigator on another grant from CIHR from which he derives no income. He is a co-investigator on research grants from CIHR, the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), Brain

Canada Foundation, and National Football League Scientific Advisory Board; he derives income only from the grant from NIH. He serves as a member of a CIHR grant review panel for which he receives a small honorarium. He receives book royalties from Guilford Press and Cambridge University Press. He has received travel support and honorarium for presentations to multiple organisations. He has served or serves on the following committees/boards for which he receive(d) honorarium: 1. Independent Data Monitoring Committee (IDMC), Care for Post-Concussive Symptoms EffecCveness (CARE4PCS-2) Trial, National Institute for Child Health and Human Development. 2. Observational Study Monitoring Board (OSMB), Approaches and Decisions in Acute Pediatric TBI (ADAPT) Trial. National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke National Research Advisory Council, National Pediatric Rehabilitation Resource Center, Center for Pediatric Rehabilitation: Growing Research, Education, and Sharing Science (C-PROGRESS), Virginia Tech University.

Patient consent for publication Not applicable.

Ethics approval Not applicable.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; internally peer reviewed.

Supplemental material This content has been supplied by the author(s). It has not been vetted by BMJ Publishing Group Limited (BMJ) and may not have been peer-reviewed. Any opinions or recommendations discussed are solely those of the author(s) and are not endorsed by BMJ. BMJ disclaims all liability and responsibility arising from any reliance placed on the content. Where the content includes any translated material, BMJ does not warrant the accuracy and reliability of the translations (including but not limited to local regulations, clinical guidelines, terminology, drug names and drug dosages), and is not responsible for any error and/or omissions arising from translation and adaptation or otherwise.

© Author(s) (or their employer(s)) 2023. No commercial re-use. See rights and permissions. Published by BMJ.

► Additional supplemental material is published online only. To view, please visit the journal online (http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bjsports-2023-106859).



To cite Patricios J, Schneider GM, van Ierssel J, *et al. Br J Sports Med* 2023;**57**:651–667.

Accepted 5 June 2023

Br J Sports Med 2023;**57**:651–667. doi:10.1136/bjsports-2023-106859

ORCID iD

Jon Patricios http://orcid.org/0000-0002-6829-4098