

US Youth Soccer Concussion Initiative

MANDATED

- ◆ Per U.S. Soccer's Concussion initiative, if a player is suspected to have a head injury the referee* is instructed to stop play to allow for treatment/evaluation as needed
- ◆ If the player leaves the field of play for additional evaluation, a substitution can be made in that moment
- ◆ The player with the suspected head injury may not return to the game unless a Health Care Professional (HCP) or Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) has cleared the player
- ◆ Any coach or parent insisting on returning the player to the game without approved clearance with result in the referee* ending the game
- ◆ Deliberate heading is not allowed in 9V9 , U11 games
- ◆ If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense
- ◆ If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.
- ◆ In a controlled and individual environment (where heading is an isolated skill being taught away from any form of opposition or other aspects of the game), the use of lightweight balls (foam, balloon, etc.) would be acceptable for teaching heading technique

NOTE: The heading ban for U12 and down players is a Cql North policy. Any players aged 12 and down may not head a ball. If a 12 yr., or younger, player moves up into an older age group, which is allowed to do headers, that player is not eligible to do headers in the older age group. The header ban is age enforced.