

Injury Policy

The association has adopted a policy for injured players to make clear the responsibilities of the referee, coaches, players and parents should a player be injured on the field. The new policy is in keeping with FIFA (Federation International de Football Association) Law 5, from Laws of the Game, the rulebook that governs competitive soccer play for all ages worldwide. The following EWGYSA policy is modified to recognize the less stringent standards of the recreational soccer program.

- A player who is injured and cannot continue should kneel, sit or lay on the field. Play continues until the referee stops it. All other players should keep their distance.
- The referee will allow play to continue until the ball is out of play if he or she considers the injury to be minor and if the player is not at further risk of injury. If the referee considers the injury serious, he or she will stop the match. If the referee does not see the injured player, the coach should bring the situation to his or her attention.
- Once play is stopped, the referee will allow the coach on the field to tend to the injured player. The referee may also allow on the field the player's parents or a licensed "first responder", such as a doctor, nurse, EMT, physical therapist or athletic trainer. Both coaches are responsible for keeping their players at a distance from the injured player.
- If the injury is considered minor the player should be escorted off the field as quickly as possible to minimize stoppage of play. The player must leave the field even if no further attention is required. First aid such as ice or a bandage should be done on the sidelines. A player bleeding from a wound can only return once the referee is satisfied the bleeding has stopped.
- If the referee, coach or parents consider the injury serious, they should request a bystander to call for medical assistance. A player unconscious or who may have sustained a head, neck or spinal injury should NEVER be moved. Only a licensed first responder as described above should provide first aid to a seriously injured player.
- The referee will allow the coach to make an immediate substitution for the injured player.
- The referee will allow for the full amount of time lost through injury to be played at the end of that quarter's play.
- The coach must ask the referee for permission to return the injured player to the game. The referee can deny permission if he or she feels the injury was severe enough to warrant further medical attention. Coaches should use caution when deciding whether to put an injured player back in the game, especially if there is a chance of a concussion.

Parents trained in first aid or licensed as health care providers should make themselves known to the association so their skills can be called upon should a serious injury occur.