

PYSA Policy on Concussions

Adopted Spring 2013

Ohio's new "Return to Play" Law (see Ohio Revised Code 3707.52) regarding player concussion injuries is effective April 26, 2013. PYSA expects that all coaches, referees, players and parents will comply with the provisions of the new law, outlined in the Concussion Policy provided by the Soccer Association for Youth (SAY), our national soccer body.

In brief, this law requires the following:

1) All coaches and officials (head coaches, assistant coaches, referees) **MUST** complete a concussion training course at least once every three years. There are two approved options to complete the free, on-line training:

- National Federation of State High School Associations
<http://www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=38000>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html

After completing the on-line training course, all coaches and referees must print out a personalized "certificate of completion", a copy of which **MUST** be provided to PYSA prior to the first practice (coaches) or games (referees). PYSA will keep a record of all individuals who have undergone training, and coaches and referees should also keep a record with them at all times as well.

2) Any athlete who exhibits signs and symptoms of concussion either during a practice or a game **MUST** be removed immediately. The athlete will not be allowed to return until he or she has been assessed and received written clearance from a physician or other licensed health care provider. They may not return on the same day they are removed. Before they return to practice/play, they must submit a "Return to Play" note to the coach.

- Concussion Notification Form
<http://www.saysoccer.org/resources/1/Forms/Concussion%20Notification%20Form.pdf>
- Signs and Symptoms of Concussion
http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/pdf/clipboard_Eng.pdf

Helpful links for more information:

Concussion in Youth Sports: Ohio's Return-to-Play Law, Ohio Department of Health:

[http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/concussion#Concussion Info Sheet](http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/concussion#Concussion%20Info%20Sheet)

Ohio Department of Health Concussion Information Sheet For Youth Sports Organizations

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Youth%20Sports%20Organization%20Concussion%20Form%20-%20ODH%20Revised%203.ashx>

SAY National Concussion Policy:

<http://www.saysoccer.org/concussionpolicy.aspx>