

MINNESOTA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION Concussion Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- 1. Why did MYSA institute its concussion policy?**
 - a. The 2011 Minnesota Legislature passed two new statutes regarding concussions involving youth athletic activity, MN Stat. 121A.37 and 121A.38, effective as of September 1, 2011, or earlier. The MYSA concussion policy is in response to those statutes.
 - b. Each club is required, under the statute, to formulate its own concussion policy and can use the MYSA policy as a template.
- 2. What is the deadline to take the training under the statute?**
 - a. Training needs to be completed prior to any practice or game involving youth athletes.
- 3. What is the penalty for not taking the online training?**
 - a. Nothing is listed in the statute but there may be licensing penalties.
 - b. MYSA is discussing what might be done under its policy.
- 4. Are there alternatives to the online training?**
 - a. If a club has developed their own concussion training program, they have to decide if they are in statutory compliance for this year. Not sure what alternatives will be allowed in following years.
- 5. What proof of completion of CDC online training is required?**
 - a. Print out the certificate and keep in your records to produce if requested.
 - b. An MYSA coach's pass or USSF referee certification will not be proof of taking the course.
 - c. At this time, there is no requirement to provide proof of taking CDC training to referee assignors. However, this will be discussed with the SRC.
- 6. What if a coach/official participates with multiple organizations?**
 - a. Only need to take the course once within the time frames in the statute.
- 7. What if there is a conflict between an official and a coach?**
 - a. Either coach or official can remove and neither can be over-ruled by the other.
- 8. What if a coach returns a player to the same game?**
 - a. A coach cannot return player to the same game unless medical approval is obtained on the sidelines.
- 9. What if a player or coach refuses to remove a player suspected of having a concussion?**
 - a. Official should stop game if official removes player and if either player or coach refuses to leave play.
- 10. Is there liability for failure to remove a player suspected of having a concussion?**
 - a. Issue being discussed at the present time. There appears to be some liability protection under the statute.
- 11. Are all referees required to take the online concussion training?**
 - a. Yes, the statute does not contain a lower age limit.
 - b. A corollary is that younger referees would also have the responsibility of sending a player off if the referee suspects the player has suffered a concussion.