INJURY AND CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT 2014

Here's guidance on how to handle an injuries, substitutions, and Concussion .

In the event of an injury

1) If the referee does not notice an injury, notify the referee team.

2) Referee will determine the severity of the injury.

 a. Ref makes initial assessment of injury and determines if s/he must stop play to make further assessment. (Ref can let play continue until there is a natural stoppage.)

 b. Ref assesses the injury.

 c. For a serious injury, the ref can ask the coach to enter the field to attend the player.

 d. For a less serious injury, the ref can ask the player to leave the field and be attended on the side line.

 e. If the injury is trivial, no further action is required.  Play continues.

If the injury requires that the player leave the field to recover ...

3) When the ref signals, the player leaves the field. (For younger players, self-control (or knowledge of the laws) to wait for the ref signal might be lacking, and refs usually recognize so.)

4) After the player leaves the field, play will resume.  (Once a player leaves the field, s/he cannot enter the field again during the same stoppage.  This policy prevents long stoppages and encourages thorough assessment by coach.)

5) Coach assesses the injury.  Parent input is optional.

6) Coach determines a recovery plan:

   a. Less injury; player is expected to recover soon (probably before the quarter ends).

       - No substitute. Let the player recover and return to the field when s/he is ready.

       - When the player is recovered, notify the referee team.  When the referee signals, the recovered player enters the field. (A stoppage is not required for a player to enter the field.)

   b. Greater injury; player requires rest (probably for at least the remainder of the quarter) before returning to the field.

       - Identify a sub.  The sub will play for the remainder of the quarter (the injured player cannot return during the same quarter).

       - Notify the referee team.  When the referee signals, the sub enters the field.

       - The sub's play in the quarter is not recorded on the game card. On the game card, the injured player is considered to be a player for the entire quarter.

Guidance on Injuries and Reentry

- The referee/coach is not a doctor and should not make medical evaluations (even if she/he is a doctor)

- So if a player says he/she is injured, or hurt, or wants to come off the field, or does walk off the field, the player is treated as injured by the referee and coach.

- Similarly, if the coach or referee says a player is injured, there is no reason to question it.  (The obvious example of this is if the player is bleeding they may want to continue play, but they need to come off the field)

- The referee, and the coach, and for that matter all adults, have the responsibility to look out for concussion.  If a referee or coach sees a head impact, or observes concussion symptoms, or is unsure, he/she should consult with the coach and parents if available.

- The decision to play further or not is definitely an adult one.  The player should sit out the rest of the game if there is risk of concussion, and get a medical evaluation.

- The player cannot re-enter the game if there is risk of concussion.

- If the player has clear concussion symptoms, the player should not let the player re-enter even if the coach and/or parent insist.  Referees may also make this call.

Coaches should download, review, and keep the Concussion handouts posted here:

<http://www.ayso64.org/faqs/concussions>

Signed,

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This email is going out to all Board Members, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Referees.  Thanks also to Doug Homstad and Betsy White for their input on this email.