

Return to Play Policy

Updated 12/16/2013

In order to protect young athletes, the State of Ohio has passed a concussion law, commonly called the "Return to Play" law. This law, similar to laws enacted in most other states, imposes training, safety, and awareness requirements on youth sports organizations, like mvysa, and its coaches, referees, officials, and athletes and their families.

A concussion is a brain injury and all brain injuries are serious. They may be caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. They can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Even though most concussions are mild, all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly.

Because of the significant health concern posed by the risk of concussions, because of the Return to Play laws enacted by the State of Ohio, and OSYSA Rule 19 mvysa is instituting the following expectations of its coaches, referees, officials, and athletes and their families.

mvysa Staff Requirements

1. Track and insure that prior to issuing a card to a coach that they have provided a current approved Concussion Training Certificate in either electronic form or hard copy which is good until June 15 of the following year if the coach is being carded from July to December and June 15 of the current year if a coach is being carded from January to June.
2. Track and insure that each year prior to issuing a card to a head coach that they have provided copies of current Concussion Training Certificates for all persons required under Coaches Requirements #1 and certify this is correct.
3. Track and insure that each year prior to issuing a card to a coach that they have been provided a copy of the current Ohio Health Department "What Coaches and Referees Need to Know" document in either electronic form or hard copy.
4. Track and insure that notification of removals and clearances are properly submitted and complied with.
5. Each year the Executive Director will verify to OSYSA that mvysa is complying with OSYSA rule 19.

Coaches Requirements

1. All persons acting as a coach, referee, or league official that supervises practice or competition, regardless of whether that person is registered as a coach or is serving as a substitute (including but not limited to those assisting at practice, serving as club linesmen, directors of coaching, and trainers) must complete an Ohio Department of Health approved concussion awareness training course and provide mvysa with an electronic or hard copy of the certificate of completion. The approved course certificate must be good until the end of the seasonal year (June 15 of the following year if the person is

being reported from July to December and June 15 of the current year if the person is being reported is being reported from January to June).

2. The head coach of each team participating the mvysa shall be held responsible for and certify to mvysa that all persons associated with his/her team that fall under number 1 above meet the requirement.
3. Each carded mvysa coach must provide a current Ohio Health Department approved Concussion Training Certificate on file with mvysa in either electronic form or hard copy which is good until the end of the seasonal year.
4. OSYSA restricts approved courses to either the NFHS or CDC courses approved by the Ohio Health Department and disallows the PAP. mvysa highly recommends the use of the NFHS Concussion Training Course (required by Ohio South for ODP, OSSL, State Cup and Presidents Cup).
5. The head coach of each team must provide to the parents of each player during registration every year a copy of the Youth Sports Concussion Information sheet and parents must indicate they have received the information sheet on the Parents Code of Conduct
6. Any removal from training or play of a player must be reported to mvysa using an established online report and the player's card turned in to the mvysa office within 24 hours.

Referee Requirements

1. mvysa requires that any referee who officiates mvysa league games to have a current approved Concussion Training Certificate and has received a copy of the current Ohio Health Department "What Coaches and Referees Need to Know" document in either electronic form or hard copy.
2. The certification must be renewed prior to expiration every 3 years.
3. The referee will require that any persons serving as a club linesman has a current Concussion Training Certificate.
4. Any removal from play of a player will treated like a send-off (card held) and must be reported to mvysa using existing game reports

Parent/Guardian Requirements

1. Parents cannot contest player removal from training or play under this policy and must obtain the required clearance prior to the players return to play.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the player's parent/guardian to notify the appropriate soccer entity of the status of their child as it relates to the player who has previously exhibited signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury, if the player has not been granted written medical clearance as required by Ohio law.
3. Likewise, if a player has exhibited signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury during a soccer related activity as outlined in the preceding paragraph, it shall be the responsibility of the player's parent/guardian to notify the appropriate non-soccer entity of the status of their child as it relates to the player who has previously exhibited signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury if the player has not been granted written medical clearance as required by Ohio law.

Removal from Play

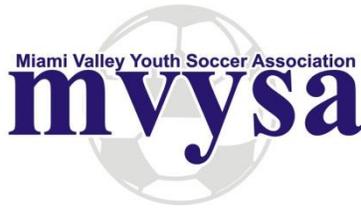
1. If an individual practicing for or competing in an athletic event organized by a youth sports organization exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury while participating in the practice or competition, the individual shall be removed from the practice or competition by one of the following:
 - a. The individual who is serving as the individual's coach during that practice or competition;
 - b. An individual who is serving as a referee during that practice or competition;
 - c. An official of the youth sports organization who is supervising that practice or competition.All removals from training and play must be reported to mvysa within 24 hours of the occurrence.
2. The athlete cannot return to training or play until compliance with O.R.C. 3707.511
3. mvysa requires the coach notify a parent when a player is removed and recommends that they give them a copy of a concussion notification form (see below for form).
4. mvysa defines physician as either an M.D. or D.O.
5. The coach must provide mvysa a hard copy or upload electronically the written clearance form prior to the athletes return to training or play.

mvysa Hosted Tournaments

In order for a tournament to be hosted by mvysa, they must meet the requirements of the Ohio Return to Play Law and applicable Ohio South and mvysa rules and policies.

Failure to Comply

1. If a coach, referee, official, or parent/guardian is not compliant with the Ohio Return to Play law, the Ohio South rule 19 or the mvysa Return to Play policy, including training requirements and removal from play requirements, he or she may face civil liability ([see O.R.C. 3707.511 \(F\)\(1\)](#)) and referred to the mvysa Vice-President for Conduct for the violation.
2. Tournaments hosted by mvysa which do not comply with the Ohio Return to Play law, the Ohio South rule 19 or the mvysa Return to Play policy, including training requirements and removal from play requirements may face civil liability ([see O.R.C. 3707.511 \(F\)\(1\)](#)) and may not be approved for hosting in the future.



CONCUSSION NOTIFICATION FORM

This form is to be given to player's parents when a player is removed from play under the mvysa Return to Play policy. Coaches are encouraged to keep a signed copy in their records. The form does not need to be sent to mvysa office.

Date of Injury: _____

Team Division: _____ Team Name: _____

Athlete Name: _____

Coach/Volunteer Name: _____ Phone# _____

Injury Occurred During (select one):

Practice Game Scrimmage Tournament Other _____

How Injury Occurred: _____

Parent/Guardian:

Your child/athlete may have received a concussion during the event listed above. We want to make sure both you and your athlete are aware that the athlete may have suffered a concussion, remind you of the signs and symptoms of concussions, and make you aware of the steps that must be followed for the athlete to return to practice/games.

It is common for an athlete who has experienced a concussion to have one or many symptoms. Please refer to the Ohio Department of Health Concussion Information Sheet, which was previously provided to you for a detailed list of symptoms. Concussion symptoms can develop right away or up to 48-hours after the injury.

Please be advised that an athlete who is removed from play due to a suspected concussion may not return to play that same day, under any circumstances, and may not return to play, generally, until a physician has provided a written release permitting return to play. The signed medical release must be presented to the coach and/or league prior to re-entering team activities.

Athlete Signature: _____ Date: _____

Coach Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____