



Washington State Referee Committee
Policy on Safety
April 2012

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Policy

Statements in this document expand and clarify referee powers and duties concerning safety. These statements do not alter or conflict with any Laws of the Game or other instructions from USSF or FIFA. These statements are endorsed by the Washington State Referee Committee, Washington Youth Soccer Association and Washington Adult Soccer Association. These instructions are policy and will be followed by all USSF Certified Referees in the State of Washington and will be implemented in all USSF Sanctioned youth games.

Article I Concussions:

If the referee suspects a participant in their youth game is suffering from a concussion:

- 1) The referee must immediately stop play if the ball is still in play
- 2) The participant must leave the field, with assistance if necessary, before play can be resumed
- 3) The referee MUST advise both coach and player that by Washington Law, future participation in sports requires that they cannot return to play until the athlete has been evaluated by a licensed health care provider and received a written clearance to play
- 4) Once off, the participant is no longer a player, substitute or substituted player; and the athlete is disqualified from further participation in this game
- 5) At the conclusion of the game, the referee must file a report with the appropriate State Association containing all the details of the incident and data to clearly identify the participant involved. The referee must also confirm that both the coach and player have been informed about the return to play requirements of Washington Law.
- 6) Referees are in no way responsible for events that may have occurred in prior or following games where they are not an assigned official

Article II Washington Youth Soccer - Research Project on Youth Concussions

The Washington Youth Soccer Association (WYS) has agreed to work with Washington State University on a study that is being conducted on youth Concussions. By this policy document referees must allow, without question, players to wear the WYS approved sensor in the manner shown below.

