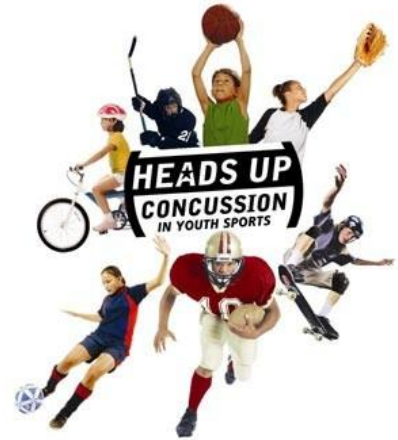




“Where tomorrow’s leaders come to play”

VAA Parents and Coaches:

The State of Minnesota recently passed legislation (MN Statute 121A.37 and 121A.38) in 2011 regarding youth athletes, concussions, and the athletes return to play. All youth sports associations are required by these statutes to have all coaches, commissioners, and officials (e.g., referees and umpires) certified by taking an on-line concussion certification program offered through the Center for Disease Control (CDC). This on-line program, called “HEADS UP, CONCUSSION IN YOUTH SPORTS,” will assist association participants in identifying signs of concussions and the steps of response and healing.



To comply with VAA policy, all coaches, commissioners, and officials must complete the CDC on-line certification program. Parents, players, and all supporters are encouraged to take the certification program as well to familiarize themselves with the signs of concussions and the recommended process to bring the injured athlete back to his/her sport at a healthful pace. This certification program will take approximately 45 minutes to complete.

A link to the State Statutes and the CDC on-line certification program can be found on the home page of the VAA web site under Announcements. Click on “MN Law mandates concussion training as of 2011” and then click on “VAA Concussion Training.” From this page you can click on the CDC Heads-up Training Homepage, the on-line CDC training, and compliance instructions. **The certificate provided, after successfully completing the program, is not downloadable and must be printed for your records. In addition, VAA will require a copy of the certificate for all coaches, commissioners, and officials (not players, parents, or others). Please follow the instructions found in the compliance instructions.**

If you have questions regarding the concussion certification program, please contact myself, Kevin Studer at kevin.studer@vaasports.org, Tom Palashewski at thomas.palashewski@vaasports.org, or Brian Hepp at brian.hepp@vaasports.org.