



# **Baldwinsville Youth Soccer Association**

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## **Concussion/Head Injury Policy**

BYSA has adopted a Concussion/Head Injury Policy to be used in conjunction with our current Medical Release Policy in order to provide the members of our organization a safe playing environment. Head Injuries can be severe and as an organization, we need to be prepared to handle such injuries.

This policy does not replace the current Medical Release Policy; this is an extension of that policy. A Concussion Fact Sheet is provided for you in your coach packet. Below are the highlights:

- Coaches need to understand what a concussion is and how to recognize one
- Be watchful of forceful blows to the head or body AND any change in player behavior

### **Take the following steps to help prevent concussions from occurring:**

- **At the first practice**, educate parents and players about concussions and what your expectations are of safe play.
- Safety comes FIRST!! Encourage players to follow the rules of play, show good sportsmanship, and wear the proper gear.
- Don't let players play if they've been hit in the head or have had a recent suspected concussion.

### **Plan of Action if a Concussion is Suspected:**

- Remove the player from play
  - Inform the player's parent/guardian about the possible concussion
  - Ensure the player is immediately evaluated by a health care professional
  - Complete the Incident Report Form and submit to Registrar within 24 hours
  - Allow player to return to play ONLY with permission from a health care professional
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- **Keep FACT SHEETS with you at EVERY practice and EVERY game.**
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- **Make copies of the completed Medical Release forms and this letter for your Assistant Coaches and have them bring the copies to EVERY practice and game in the event you can't attend.**