

Heading of the Ball page 28 of the BYSA Club Handbook

NO BALL HEADING. Heading a soccer ball can cause significant impact to a child's neck vertebrae that could cause long standing neurological injury, as well strong and /or repetitive blows to the head will cause serious long term brain injury in the form of concussion. Concussions even small ones are cumulative over a person's life. Therefore BYSA does not allow direct heading of the ball, coaches will not promote it and players will be called on it. Heading the ball, or attempting to do so will result in a minimum of loss of advantage or disallowed goal and or ejection from the game or event for repeat infractions.

A ball that contacts the ground then a players head is not a headed ball.

There is argument that this BYSA policy takes away from the game, this is untrue, the game can be played without heading, concussions and neurologic injuries are life long, cumulative and life altering. This includes the corner kick situation. Players, refs and coaches found ignoring this policy will be given the option to follow it or leave the association.

Concussions

Concussions are insidious in that they are very difficult to assess and gauge, inevitably though it is now shown that concussions are cumulative and lifelong. Repeated small blows to the head will add up year after year and very likely cause some sort of measurable and negative brain injury.

Any relative force applied to the head could lead to a concussion; energy levels, direction and location of impact will play a role in the severity of the trauma.

Any person suspected of having a concussion or significant blow to the head must be removed from the game and assessed at a medical facility by a physician. The player cannot resume participation until written permission from a physician has been received by the league.

It's really quite plain...Protect the Brain.

