

**UFA POLICY ON CONCUSSION AWARENESS
AND
RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES
September 8, 2013**

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

It shall be the policy of United Futbol Academy (UFA) to require that all parents/legal guardians of youth players, along with all registered youth coaches, be informed on the subject of concussive injury to players and to the best practices available for diagnosis and treatment for this potentially serious medical condition. UFA members are required to follow all Federal, State, and local legal requirements including, but not limited to, the removal from play of any youth player suspected to have had a severe head injury of any type.

UFA asks parents, coaches, volunteer and paid staff, game officials, and club administrators to be vigilant in the area of player safety for all potentially serious types of injuries, including head, neck, and spine areas. Concussions, also referred to as traumatic brain injuries (TBI), are particularly dangerous to the youth athlete as the brain is still undergoing significant growth up to and during the teenage years.

At the time of registration, UFA will notify the parents/guardians of youth players of the general signs and symptoms of potential concussive injury, and request parent/guardian acknowledgement.

UFA is committed to the safety of all players involved in the sport of soccer.

BEST PRACTICES

UFA has adopted Georgia Soccer's "Return to Play" policy for all suspected head injuries. When a coach or other league representative suspects any player of having received a possible concussion injury, they must formally report this possibility to the player's parent or legal guardian using the "**UFA Notification of Possible Concussion**" form. One form must be submitted to the parent and a duplicate form must be submitted to UFA.

Parents/legal guardians of youth players previously notified of having a suspected concussion by their coach or league official are required to submit a signed confirmation (**UFA Return to Play Authorization Form**) to that coach/league official that confirms the parent/guardian has "cleared" the player to return to play, including an acknowledgement by the parent/legal guardian that a professional medical opinion should be considered by the parent/legal guardian before submitting such an authorization.

At the time of registration, "**Concussion Awareness**" information will be made available to the players' parents/guardians, and will require parent/guardian acknowledgement. UFA is responsible for maintaining the records of the parent's/legal guardian's acknowledgement.

UFA will encourage all coaches, new and returning, (paid and volunteer) to take training, as provided by the CDC (available on the Georgia Soccer Risk Management web page for reference) in the area of current concussion awareness practices