

240. Concussion Protocol and Heading Restrictions (from the Georgia Soccer Youth Rules and Regulations)

240.1 Per U.S. Soccer's Concussion Initiative, if a player is suspected to have a head injury the referee is instructed to stop play to allow for treatment/evaluation as needed

240.1a If there is no referee in 4v4, this responsibility falls to the coaches and parents involved.

240.2 Per Georgia Soccer Youth Rules, the player must leave the field of play for additional evaluation; a substitution may be made in that moment.

240.3 The player with the suspected head injury may not return to the game unless a Health Care Professional (HCP) or Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) has cleared the player

240.4 Any coach or parent insisting on returning the player to the game without approved clearance will result in the referee ending the game

240.5 Heading

240.5a Deliberate heading is not allowed in 4v4 games. If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.

240.5b Deliberate heading is not allowed in 7v7 games. If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

240.5c Deliberate heading is not allowed in 11U games. If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.

240.5d Heading is allowed in games 12U and older without limitations.