



June 8, 2017

To: CAHA Member Associations
Re: Concussion Program Changes

Player safety continues to be a top priority in all youth sports nationwide, and California is no exception. Recently, California Health and Safety Code 124235 was implemented, introducing new requirements in concussion awareness, education and return to play protocol in all youth recreational sports across the state.

You may recall that CAHA was the first USA Hockey affiliate to introduce statewide concussion protocol in 2012. That protocol still exists today, and includes educational resources, a required annual parent acknowledgement form, a required annual coach acknowledgement form, and a concussion evaluation form with return to play criteria for healthcare professionals. USA Hockey includes concussion education to train our coaches nationwide, and continues to develop concussion management guidelines and recommendations under the player safety platform.

California Health and Safety Code 124235 takes concussion awareness, education and protocol to another level to ensure all our youth athletes are mindful of concussions and how serious they can be. Effective with the 2017-18 season, the following additional components will be implemented within every member association in the State of California. CAHA is fortunate to have existing concussion programming to build and expand on with these new requirements.

- **Parents/Guardians:** Concussion education must be provided, and an annual acknowledgement must be signed. This is already in place.
- **New! Coaches:** One-time concussion education is mandatory, and proof of completion must be provided to the Association prior to participation. *The USA Hockey CEP and coaching modules meet the education requirement. The CAHA annual acknowledgement must still be signed.
- **New! Association Administrators:** One-time concussion education is mandatory, and proof of completion must be provided to the Association prior to participation. The recommended online course is through the Centers for Disease Control at this link: <https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>. Send the completion certificate to your Association Registrar (or other designee) when completed.

- **New! Athletes:** Providing annual concussion education is mandatory, and receipt by the athlete must be acknowledged with a signature, prior to participation. This requirement can be met in a number of ways, and will be managed by each association at the start of season participation. **Parents** need to be aware that their athletes will be receiving information, and will be required to sign for it.
- **New/Revised – Concussion Evaluation and Return To Participation Protocol:**
 - An athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or other head injury in an athletic activity shall be immediately removed from the athletic activity for the remainder of the day, and
 - shall not be permitted to return to any athletic activity until he or she is evaluated by a licensed health care provider, and receives written clearance to return to athletic activity from a licensed health care provider.
 - If the licensed healthcare provider determines that the athlete sustained a concussion or other head injury, the athlete shall also complete a graduated return-to-play protocol of no less than seven days in duration under the supervision of a licensed health care provider.
 - The new USA Hockey concussion management program Return to Sport criteria has been added to the back of the evaluation and return to participation form.

CAHA understands that these new requirements will take some getting used to, as well as access to education and information. Over the next few weeks, CAHA's educational tools and resources will be updated on the Concussion page of the CAHA Website, so be sure to check it regularly. Our member associations are bound to get questions; directing those to the CAHA Website and the information there should be a great benefit to our members. For all other questions, please contact Jaime Campbell at: PDconcussion@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. We should all be thankful we live in a state whose values are so aligned with our own in ensuring that player safety of our athletes comes first.

Sincerely,



Thomas Hancock
President