



Steve Laing, President, California Amateur Hockey Association

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May 20, 2012

To SCAHA, NORCAL and Associations,

Earlier this year, the CAHA Board of Directors voted overwhelmingly to include concussion awareness, education and protocol efforts in the 2012-2013 season. This comes at a time when we are all aware of the dangers of concussions, including indefinite rehabilitation periods or even career-ending effects.

Based on research and recommendations by the CAHA Concussion Committee, the CAHA Board of Directors voted to adopt a concussion protocol that is based on the same premises of the Assembly Bill 25 legislation passed in October 2011 in the State of California, requiring all parents/guardians of public high school athletes to acknowledge that they understand the dangers of and potential for concussion occurrences, and that when a concussion is suspected, the player will be removed from play until they can be evaluated by a medical professional trained in the diagnosis and treatment of concussions. Parents/Guardians must sign the Parent/Guardian Concussion Policy Acknowledgement form starting at the beginning of the 2012-2013 season for all youth travel hockey players: house, High School, A, B, AA, AAA.

Implementation of this protocol requires education, and over the course of the next few months and throughout the 2012-2013 season, resources in the form of workshops, online education and printed resources will be distributed within the CAHA membership to educate parents, coaches, officials, managers, parents and players on the signs, symptoms and diagnosis of concussions, as well as potential courses of treatment in order for a player to safely return to play. It is just as, if not more important, that a player understand the signs and symptoms of a potential concussion so they can be an active participant in their own diagnosis and course of treatment.

The attached Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement form will become part of the required paperwork in the team credentials binder for the 2012-2013 season, with the USA Hockey Code of Conduct as well as the Consent to Treat form. This form is to be printed for all club Registrars and signed with player contracts. The Registrar should keep a copy in the player contract, and a copy of it will also be required in the credentials binder with the Consent to Treat form and the USA Hockey Code of Conduct. We have also attached informative documents to start the educational process, which should also be distributed to all clubs. In addition, the attached Return To Play document will be copied and kept in the Credentials binder, and required for a player who has been diagnosed with a concussion before returning to participation.

Critics of concussion protocol argue that those individuals with the authority to remove a player from participation may not be educated enough to do so, or that the power may be misused. CAHA will make every effort to ensure that everyone in a leadership position completes concussion education training and understands the responsibility of acting on concussion protocol. The CAHA Concussion Committee will be monitoring all reported incidents of concussion during the 2012-2013 season.

First and foremost, concussion protocol is a necessary component of player safety. The CAHA Board of Directors is committed to the safety of every player within our organization and associate members. Questions regarding concussion protocol can be submitted to the Concussion Committee via the link on the CAHA website homepage.

Yours in Hockey,

California Amateur Hockey Association

Board of Directors