

Implementation of Youth Heading Rules in Montana



The rules described in this presentation ARE NOT OPTIONAL!

All rules are to be applied with immediate effect for all youth matches in Montana for the spring, summer, and fall of 2016

This presentation is posted on the MYSA website and all referees have been notified via email

Referees are responsible for the appropriate application of this information in matches for 2016!



Formal statement from US Soccer:

“As part of U.S. Soccer’s Player Safety Campaign, players **10 years old and younger** are **prohibited from heading the ball** in practice and **in games**. To this end, **when 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 **in the goal area**, the indirect free kick should be taken **on the goal area line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred**. If a player does not deliberately head the ball, then play should continue.”

Clarifications on this to follow from MYSA on ensuing slides...





MYSA Heading Policy

No player at U12 or younger is allowed to intentionally head the ball.

- If a player is struck in the head by a ball, the game should only be stopped if the player appears to be injured, and the player should leave the game for evaluation.
- Restart for injury: Dropped Ball
- Restart for deliberate header: IFK

Age Level...

Only U12 and below are affected

If a younger player (U10-U12) is playing up to U13 or higher, that younger player **IS NOT RESTRICTED FROM HEADING THE BALL IN U13 OR HIGHER MATCHES!**

**Note using the Birth Year Registration: for the 2016-2017 season u12's are 2005's
for 2017-2018 u12's are 2006's**



When applied...

The ball must be **DELIBERATELY** headed by the player

If the heading of the ball is not deliberate, then there is no infraction

Attacking player heading ball in defending team's goal area...

Defensive player heading ball in own goal area...



Is there misconduct possible when a player heads the ball and it is an infraction?

Example: U12 player heads the ball off the goal line to prevent a goal from being scored... is this DOGSO?

NO!

In U12 yellow and red cards should be given as usual...

... but do **NOT** give any cards for heading offenses!



What if the same U11/U12 player keeps heading the ball repeatedly, even when I have called it each time? Is this persistent infringement?

- Take the player over to the coach and ask the coach to sub the player off to explain why this can't continue
- If the coach won't sub the player off, caution the player next time for persistent infringement

Not all coaches, players, and parents will be aware of this rule

Work with the coaches and players to help them understand the rule, not against them and make them mad at you before they have a chance to correct things



Can advantage be called when a U12 or younger player heads the ball?

The only time advantage should be applied is if the ball ends up in the goal before you can blow your whistle

The spirit of the rule is to PROTECT young players from INJURY

The message desired by US Soccer will not be effectively delivered if we only apply the rule when the heading team gains from the act!

