AMES SOCCER CLUB CONCUSSION POLICY

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

It shall be the policy of Ames Soccer Club to require that all members, 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. This policy shall require all members to follow all Federal, State, and local legal requirements including, but not limited to, the removal from play of any player suspected to have had a head injury of any type. This policy will remain subservient to any and all future Federal, state, local laws and regulations as well as any established US Youth Soccer and/or the United States Soccer Federation policies.

Ames Soccer Club asks parents, coaches, volunteer and paid staff, and game officials 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 significant during growth up to and during the teenage years. It shall be the policy of Ames Soccer Club to require that, at the time of registration, parents and legal guardians of each youth player are informed of the general signs and symptoms of potential concussive injury by visiting the CDC's concussion resource page on their website.

http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/
Further educational and other reference resources are available on the Iowa Soccer, US Youth Soccer, US Soccer Federation and CDC websites.

http://www.iowasoccer.org/
http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/HealthandSafetyResourceCenter/
http://www.ussoccer.com/about/recognize-to-recover
http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/

Access to concussion awareness information will be made available to coaches, youth players' parents and guardians. Ames Soccer Club will inform their coaches of this policy.

COACHES: Ames Soccer Club requires all coaches to complete the CDC's online Heads Up concussion training program for coaches every two years. Access to this course is found on Iowa Soccer's website or by using the link below. After completing the test at the end of the program, please download the certificate, save it to a file and upload it into the provided portal on the risk management page– www.iowasoccer.org. One may also download other valuable information on this page which includes Fact Sheet for Coaches and a Clipboard Concussion Information sheet, both valuable resources for use.

http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/coach.html

PARENTS AND LEGAL GUARDIANS: Ames Soccer Club strongly encourages their member parents and legal guardians to take the CDC's online Heads Up concussion training program for parents. http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/parents.html

PLAYERS: Ames Soccer Club strongly encourages their member players to take the CDC's online Heads Up concussion training program for athletes.
http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/athletes.html

PROTOCOL: During the course of a practice, game or tournament if a coach or referee suspects a concussion (any player who sustains a significant blow to the head or body and/or complains about or is exhibiting symptoms consistent with having suffered a concussion) the player must be pulled immediately from play. The player must be evaluated by a healthcare professional and written documentation from the health care professional must be presented to the coach stating the player is safe to return to soccer play. Soccer players in the U11 and up age divisions will have SCAT3 testing done once a year during practice. These results will be provided to families as baseline information which may be utilized by a healthcare provider.