



Ohio South Youth Soccer Association

Playing Rule Change



Youth Playing Rule Change



The “No Heading Rule” (as per OSYSA ByLaws 20.2 and 20.7) is in effect **now** (since July 1, 2016) for **all** league or tournament **U-11 and younger** games played in Ohio South.



OSYSA ByLaw 20.2

- All players who are registered on or participate with any U-11s or younger team are prohibited from deliberately striking a soccer ball with any portion of their head, (a.k.a. heading), during any game, practice, tryout, or other soccer related activity.
- If an U-11s or younger player engages in heading a soccer ball during games, practices, tryouts, or other soccer related activities, contrary to the above listed prohibition, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the player accept the risk and/or peril of doing so.



OSYSA ByLaw 20.7

- When a player who is rostered on a team playing in an U-11 or younger age group or division deliberately strikes the ball with his / her head during any league or tournament game, Referees and Assistant Referees of that game must consider the act to be Dangerous Play and handle the matter accordingly as an infraction of the Laws of the Game.



OSSRC Heading the Ball Restrictions



- 1) *If a player in a U11 (10 yrs. old) or younger age group match **deliberately** heads the ball in a game with any portion of their head, an indirect free kick (IFK) is to be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the infraction.*
- 2) *If within the goal area, the IFK should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infraction occurred.*



OSSRC Heading the Ball Restrictions



- 3) *If the ball makes contact with a player's head and the player has **not deliberately** played or attempted to play the ball, then play should continue as no infraction has occurred.*
- 4) *A player shall **not** be cautioned nor sent-off for persistent infringement, as a result of a heading infraction.*
- 5) *A player shall **not** be cautioned nor sent-off for denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity, as a result of a heading infraction.
*It is not a handling offense and it is not an offense committed against an opponent ... therefore criteria for committing a DOGSO offense does not exist.**



OSSRC Heading the Ball Clarifications



- *Heading of the ball is allowed in U12 and older age group matches without limitations.*
- *Referees are to enforce the heading restrictions by age group of the team in accordance with these specified rules.*
- *Referees will not be assessing the age of individual players on the field ... they will only enforce the rules for the age group.*



OSSRC Heading the Ball Clarifications



- *Advantage should not be implemented when a heading infraction occurs.*
- *This rule is primarily a SAFETY issue, which needs to be addressed immediately, such that it does not occur again.*
- *This is **not** an infraction where the player needs to be punished, i.e. with a caution or send-off. Again, it is a self-inflicted safety issue.*



OSSRC

Heading the Ball

Clarifications



- *It may be acceptable to have the player leave the game (much like an injury) such that the coach can talk to the player.*
 - *This is not a mandate ... solely at the discretion of the referee.*
 - *More likely to implemented, if deliberate heading is repeated.*
 - *Player would be allowed back in the game at the team's next substitution time.*
 - *Again, this is not intended to be a punishment, but instead a teaching moment.*



OSSRC Heading the Ball Expansions



- *As a referee or an AR you must determine if ball and head contact was a **deliberate** act by the player.*
 - Ball to head ... not deliberate*
 - Head to ball ... deliberate*
- *Similar to determining a handling foul ... expect to hear “Headball, Ref”, as an added complaint from the sidelines.*