



Granite Bay FC Ghosts & Goals 2021

Concussion Protocol



1. General Information on the Concussion Protocol

Due to the rule change made by U.S. Soccer this year regarding concussion protocols, the following rules will be strictly enforced at the tournament this weekend. Please make sure all coaches and managers are aware of this policy.

U.S. Soccer recommends and US Club Soccer requires the immediate removal of any player who sustains a significant blow to the head or body, who complains about or who is showing symptoms consistent with having suffered a concussion.

Referees will enforce the following rules when a player has a suspected concussion:

- a. Any player suspected of suffering a concussion will not be allowed to return to play until he/she is cleared by the healthcare professional.
- b. No coach, parent/guardian or player may overrule the healthcare professional.

Healthcare professionals include licensed professionals such as athletic trainer certified (ATC) or physician (MD/DO), with skills in emergency care, sports medicine injuries and experience related to concussion evaluation and management.

There will be EMT's at Maidu Park during the tournament. If a player has a suspected concussion, they must go to the Maidu Park site to seek clearance to return. The clearance must be presented to a tournament official at the tournament headquarters.

2. Responsibilities of Referee

If a player has a suspected concussion:

- a. Immediately stop play.
- b. Direct the player to leave the field.
- c. Instruct the coach to select a substitute.
- d. Do not allow the player to return to the game unless directed by a tournament official.
- e. Report the player name and number to a tournament official at the conclusion of the game.

If a coach attempts to allow a player who had been removed from a game for concussion assessment and who has not been cleared to return to play by the on-site healthcare professional, to return, the referee should:

- a. Immediately stop play.
- b. Direct the player to leave the field.
- c. Instruct the coach to select a substitute.
- d. Issue a warning to the coach.

- e. If a coach persists, the referee is entitled to take necessary disciplinary measures against the coach.
- f. The referee should include this behavior in his/her referee report to US Club Soccer.

3. Responsibilities of Tournament Officials at Maidu Park Site

If a local referee or a tournament official from a remote site reports a suspected concussion:

- a. Determine if the player's team has any remaining scheduled games.
- b. Determine if the scheduled game is to be played at Maidu Park or at a remote site.
- c. For game(s) to be played at Maidu Park: locate the game card, highlight the player's name, and make a note that the player is not eligible to play due to "suspected concussion."
- d. For game(s) to be played at remote sites: contact the tournament official at the remote site and inform them that a player is ineligible to play. Provide them with the game number, name of the player, and the name of the player's team.

If a parent or coach of a player presents a clearance form from the Maidu Park site EMT staff:

- a. Determine if the player's team has any remaining scheduled games.
- b. Determine if the scheduled game is to be played at Maidu Park or at a remote site.
- c. For game(s) to be played at Maidu Park: locate the game card and strike/initial the ineligibility note.
- d. For game(s) to be played at remote sites: contact the tournament official at the remote site and inform them that a player is cleared to play. Provide them with the game number, name of the player, and the name of the player's team.

4. Responsibilities of Tournament Officials at Remote Site

If a referee reports a suspected concussion:

- a. Call tournament headquarters to report the name of the player and the name of the player's team.

If tournament headquarters calls with information about a suspected concussion:

- a. Locate the game card, highlight the player's name, and make a note that the player is not eligible to play due to "suspected concussion."

If tournament headquarters calls with information about a cleared player:

- a. Locate the game card and strike/initial the ineligibility note.