

## ATHENS UNITED CONCUSSION POLICY

AUSA Coaches will complete Safe Sport Training and a coaches' clinic to learn concussion identification, best practices, and safe Return to Play.

AUSA Coaches will follow the SCCL rule 5.2 "No Re-entry Protocol," stating that an athlete may not return to play if signs and symptoms of concussion are observed.

Concussion symptoms, which may be observed by the coaching staff, may include:

- Confusion
- Vision disturbances (double or blurry vision)
- Nausea or vomiting
- Ringing ears
- Sensitivity to light
- Headache
- Dizziness or imbalance
- Memory loss
- Difficulty concentrating

**During training or games:** If a player is injured in any type of head collision, the player should be removed from the game, and the coach shall utilize the athletic trainer for an evaluation. If an athletic trainer is not available, the coach should not allow the player to return to play if demonstrating any symptoms.

**Return to play:** Players with a suspected or diagnosed concussion must provide proof of clearance, such as a note or other document from a Licensed Healthcare Provider, before returning to play. If no clearance is provided, a player must wait three weeks if a medical clearance was not formally given. A player must complete one full practice before playing a game when returning from a diagnosed concussion.

### *5.2 - No Re-Entry Protocol (for Head Injury and SCA)*

*In accordance with the US Club Soccer return to play guidelines, any Player removed from the Field for a suspected head injury or SCA (sudden cardiac arrest) will not be allowed to return to the Field of play for the remainder of that same day, and must be cleared by a Licensed Healthcare Provider before returning to play in the future. If a Licensed Healthcare Provider is present at the game for the purposes of the evaluation and management of concussion or cardiac conditions (they must be identified to the Referee prior to the start of the game), they may clear a player to return to the Field of Play in the same game, if a concussion or SCA is no longer suspected by the Licensed Healthcare Provider.*

*A Licensed Healthcare Provider is defined by GA Return to Play Act of 2013 as an individual: "Health care provider' means a licensed physician or another licensed individual under the supervision of a licensed physician, such as a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or certified athletic trainer who has received training in concussion evaluation and management."*