

## **COLORADO ICE CONCUSSION TRAINING AND TREATMENT POLICY**

The Colorado Ice Concussion Training and Treatment Policy is adopted by the Board of Directors of the Colorado Ice Youth Soccer Club as a response to and in order to assure compliance with the Jake Snakenberg Youth Concussion Act, Colorado Revised Statutes 25-42-101, *et seq.* with an effective date of January 1, 2012. The Act requires that clubs sponsoring youth athletic activities require each volunteer coach and each coach employed or engaged by the club to complete an annual concussion recognition education course. The Act defines “youth athletic activities” as any organized activity where a majority of the participants are 11 years of age or older. The Act further provides that if a coach suspects that a youth athlete has sustained a concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the head or body during any game, competition, or practice, that the coach immediately remove the athlete from the game, competition, or practice. Once an athlete is removed from play, if the signs and symptoms cannot be readily explained by a condition other than a concussion, the athlete’s parent must be notified and the athlete shall not be allowed to return to play in any supervised team activities involving physical exertion until there is an evaluation by a health-care provider and the athlete has received written clearance to return to play from the health-care provider. The Act defines a “health-care provider” as a doctor of medicine, a doctor of osteopathic medicine, a licensed nurse practitioner, a licensed physician assistant, or a licensed doctor of psychology with training in neuro-psychology or concussion evaluation.

The purpose of this Policy is to establish a set of guidelines and protocols which will be followed by the Colorado Ice Soccer Club and its volunteers and contracted coaches for concussion training and treatment, in order to comply with the Act. The Colorado Ice Policy is as follows:

1. **Concussion Training.** The following coaches, volunteers and trainers engaged by or performing volunteer services for Colorado Ice Youth Soccer teams in the U-11 through U-18 age groups shall be required to complete an annual concussion recognition education course:

A. All Colorado Ice Club Coaches, Assistant Club Coaches, and Goal Keeper Coaches;

B. All Head Coaches of each of the individual U-11 to U-18 teams;

C. All Trainers employed by Colorado Ice to provide training sessions for U-11 to U-18 soccer teams;

D. All Assistant Coaches of U-11 to U-18 soccer teams, whether performing those services for pay or as a volunteer. For purposes of this subsection, an “Assistant Coach” is defined as any individual who is designated as an assistant coach on a team roster or who participates as an assistant coach on the players’ sideline during games, or who conducts practice or training sessions for a U-11 to U-18 soccer team;

E. Any paid personnel or volunteer who assumes responsibility for coaching a U-11 to U-18 soccer team on a substitute or temporary basis in the absence of the regular coach.

2. **Timing for Completion of Concussion Training.** Each head coach and every trainer providing training services on a paid basis to U-11 to U-18 soccer teams for Colorado Ice shall complete their annual concussion recognition course on or before November 1, 2011, and November 1 of each year thereafter. Coaches and trainers shall be required to provide written certification of completion of a concussion recognition education course as a condition to receiving their final coaches’ or trainers’ compensation for each fall season. By way of example, in the fall of 2011, each coach or trainer must provide the certification to Colorado Ice before receiving their final pay check for services for fall 2011.

Every other person identified as required to receive concussion recognition education as set forth in paragraph 1., above, shall be required to provide certification of completion on an annual basis before performing any coaching or training services on a volunteer or paid basis for a U-11 to U-18 soccer team.

3. **Removal for Suspicion of Concussion.** If a coach, assistant coach, or trainer suspects that a youth athlete has sustained a concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the head or body in a game, competition or practice, the athlete shall be immediately removed from the game, competition or practice.

After such removal, if the signs and symptoms cannot be readily explained by a condition other than a concussion, the following shall occur:

A. The coach shall notify either the club coach or Executive Director of Colorado Ice and the athlete shall not be allowed to return to play or participate in any supervised team activities involving physical exertion until there has been compliance with subparagraph C., below;

B. Colorado Ice shall notify the athlete's parent or legal guardian of the possibility or suspicion of concussion and that the athlete shall not be permitted to return to play or participate in any supervised team activity involving physical exertion until the athlete is evaluated by a health-care provider and receives written clearance to return to play from the health-care provider;

C. The written clearance to return to play from the health-care provider must be provided to the Colorado Ice Soccer Club and upon receipt of that written clearance, the Club will notify the coach that the athlete is cleared to return to play, as well as any conditions which may be placed upon that clearance by the health-care provider. The coach shall not allow the

youth athlete to play or participate in any supervised team activities involving physical exertion until the coach has received notice from Colorado Ice that written clearance to return to play has been received by Colorado Ice.

4. **Record Keeping.** Colorado Ice shall maintain copies of certificates evidencing the annual completion of concussion recognition education courses by all required personnel as specified in paragraph 1., above; shall maintain copies of all notices to parents or legal guardians of athletes who are suspected of potentially suffering a concussion; and shall maintain copies of all written clearances from health-care providers allowing such athletes to return to play. These records shall be maintained for a period of five years.