



US Youth Soccer Conferences managed by EDP

Head Injury Substitution Rule (U15 & older)

If a player suffers a blow to the head, is suspected of having suffered a concussion or has an apparent head injury during the game; the player must be removed from the game for an evaluation.

The substitution procedure has been amended to allow a temporary substitution to replace the injured player while the player is being evaluated. The amendment is only applicable for head injuries, all other injuries follow the standard substitution protocol.

A team may make a temporary substitution if they have at least one substitute remaining for that half. In the event there are multiple players being evaluated with head injuries from the same team at the same time, the team cannot make more temporary substitutions than the number of substitutes the team has remaining for that half of play.

A temporary substitution will not count as a substitute if the player being evaluated is permitted to re-enter the game at any stoppage and replace the original temporary substitute – who shall remain an available substitute for the balance of that half of play. Any caution assessed to that player while in the game as a temporary substitute will carry with that player for the balance of the game. In the event that player receives a red card while in the game as a temporary substitute, the player must exit the game and the team must play a man down. Following the send-off, if the player being evaluated for a head injury is cleared to return, the player may re-enter the game but only to substitute in for another player.

If the player being evaluated does not return to play, the temporary substitution remains in the game and that counts as one of the half's substitutions.



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Head Injury Substitution Rule / Possible Scenarios

A temporary substitute receives a head injury while in the game

- If a temporary substitute received a head injury while in the game as a temporary substitute, that player may be replaced by another temporary substitute only if that team has a remaining substitute in that half
- If there is no substitute remaining, the team must play a man down until either the original player or the temporary substitute being evaluated has been cleared to return

Two players on the same team receive head injuries at the same time

- To replace both players with temporary substitutes, the team must have two substitutes still available in the half

What if the player being evaluated receives a red card

- The temporary substitute must leave the field of and the team must play a man down for the balance of the game
- The temporary Substitute that was in the game for that player returns to the technical area and is eligible throughout the rest of the game as an available regular substitute

What if the temporary substitute receives a red card

- The temporary substitute must leave the field of play and the team must play a man down for the balance of the game
- If the player being evaluated is clear to return to the game, he may come back in the game in place of another player

A goalkeeper receives a head injury

- A head injury to the goalkeeper is treated exactly the same as any other head injury, There are no special circumstances for this situation

Does a neck injury count as a head injury

- No, a neck injuries are not considered head injuries.