

Head Injury Substitution Rule:

If a player suffers a blow to the head, is suspected of having suffered a concussion or has an apparent head injury during the course of a game, the club must remove the player from the game for a medical evaluation by a healthcare professional (HCP) or an athletic trainer certified (ATC) with a skill set in emergency care and sports medicine injuries and with knowledge and experience related to concussion evaluation and management. The home team will be responsible for providing an HCP or an ATC at each game, so please be sure to connect with that individual during your pre-game. They will have the final say for all head-related injuries. **If the HCP/ATC is not present please contact the Development Academy coordinator immediately. A game cannot begin without an HCP/ATC present.**

The Development Academy substitution protocol has been amended to allow a temporary substitute to replace the injured player while the player is being evaluated. This amendment is only applicable for head injuries; all other injuries must follow the standard Academy substitution protocol.

A team may only make a temporary substitution if they have at least one substitution and one substitution moment remaining. In the event there are multiple players being evaluated with head injuries from the same team at the same time, that team cannot make more temporary substitutions than the number of substitutions and substitution moments that team has remaining. For example, if two players from the same team receive head injuries at the same time, that team needs two available substitutions, but only one available moment because the injury to both players occurred at the same time (injured players that are cleared can re-enter at separate stoppages.)

The temporary substitution will not count against the team's total number of allowed substitutions or substitution moments. If the player being evaluated has received clearance from the HCP or an ATC to return to the game, that player may re-enter at any stoppage of play and must replace the original temporary substitute, who will remain an available substitute and will be permitted to re-enter the game. Any cautions assessed to that player while in the game as a temporary substitute will carry with the player for the remainder 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 the team will have to utilize a substitution and a substitution moment.

If the game ends before the evaluated player is cleared to return, the temporary substitute must be marked on the game report as a standard substitute.

If the player being evaluated for a head injury is not cleared to return, the temporary substitute will remain in the game and the team will be assessed a substitution and substitution moment.

Post-game reporting

- Do not add substitution times for the temporary sub unless he is added as a permanent sub
- Record any goals or misconduct for the temporary substitute on the online report
- **Any suspected head injuries need to be followed up with an incident report, regardless of whether or not the player returned to play**
 - In the incident report, please describe who entered as a temporary sub and the minutes played

Possible Scenarios

If there is only one substitution and/or moment remaining and a temporary substitute enters the game, can the teams make any other substitutions while the injured player is being evaluated

- No

A temporary substitute receives a head injury while in the game

- If a temporary substitute receives a head injury while in the game as a temporary substitute, that player may be replaced by an additional temporary substitute, but only if that team has a second moment and second substitution remaining
- If there is not a second moment and substitution remaining, the team must play a man down until either the original player or the temporary substitute being evaluated have been cleared to return
- If a second temporary substitute is utilized and both the original player and the first temporary substitute are not cleared to continue, the second temporary sub can remain in the game and that team will only need to use one moment and one substitution

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 substitutions but only one moment remaining
- If both players being evaluated are not cleared to return, the team will still only be charged one moment, even if the temporary substitutes become formal substitutes at different times

What if the player being evaluated receives a red card

- The temporary substitute must come off the field
- The team plays a man down
- The temporary substitute that was in the game for that player returns to the technical area and is available throughout the rest of the game as a regular substitute
- A substitution moment and substitution is not utilized

What if the temporary substitute receives a red card

- The temporary substitute must leave the field of play
- The team must play a man down the rest 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, but the team will have to utilize one substitution and moment

A goalkeeper receives a head injury

- A head injury to a 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, neck injuries are not considered head injuries