

To: All Club and League Presidents

From: Denise Edwards, President, VYSA

RE: No Heading Rule for U11 Age Groups and Younger/U12-U13 Heading Guidelines

Date: 3/17/16

The VYSA Board of Directors has approved and adopted the following new rule and guidelines regarding heading the ball for U10 and younger and U12/U13 age groups. This rule and guidelines take effect Monday, March 21, 2016.

**U11 and Younger**

- US Soccer guidelines are players in U11 programs and younger shall not engage in heading, either in practice or in games.

**U12 & U13 age groups**

- US Soccer guidelines are for players U12 and U13 programs, that heading in training be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per week with no more than 15-20 headers per day, per week

All coaches should be instructed to teach and emphasize the importance of proper techniques for heading the ball.

Virginia Youth Soccer Assn. member clubs and leagues shall add to their club and league rules and procedures the following modification to the FIFA Laws of the Game. This modification applies to all levels of play including travel, recreational and academy programs and sanctioned tournaments. The Metro/DC/Virginia Referee Association has been notified of this new rule and will be prepared to implement it in matches that they officiate beginning March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

**At age group divisions U11 and younger-**

**Whenever the ball strikes a player in the head, play is stopped. The proper restart depends upon whether the player deliberately played the ball with his or her head. If deliberate, the proper restart is an indirect free kick to the opposing team. If this occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred. If the play by the head is deemed in advertent, then the proper restart is a dropped ball.**