



Memorandum

June 2, 2016

TO: All Referees, Assignors, Assessors, Instructors and Administrators of the Metro-DC and Virginia State Referee Program

FROM: State Referee Committee

SUBJECT: UPDATED SRC POLICY RE: Change to the Rules of the Competition – Heading the Ball for U-11 and Younger

All;

On March 18, 2016, the SRC published a memorandum and guidance with regards to the US Soccer and VYSA elimination of heading the ball for all competitions at the U-11 and below levels. Since that time, many of the MDCVASRP referees have chosen to interpret and apply the rule change as they saw fit. This is unacceptable and dangerous. The history of how the rule change came about is to affect the safety of our younger children playing the beautiful game. The State Referee Committee reiterates that this rule change **IS NOT A CHANGE TO THE LAWS OF THE GAME** and therefore intent, goal scoring opportunity and other issues we as referees would try to adjudicate are not applicable. Accordingly, effective immediately, this memorandum supersedes the March 18th memorandum. All referees will enforce the following VYSA policy. Failure to do so may result in suspension or forfeiture of your certification as a referees with US Soccer and MDCVASRP.

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 inadvertent, then the proper restart is a dropped ball.

It is essential that all referees who are assigned U11 and younger matches understand that per the change in the rules of the competitions play must be stopped any time the ball strikes the head. This is **NON-NEGOTIABLE AND MUST BE ENFORCED.**

Thank you for helping to keep our young players safe.

Sincerely,

PATRICK J. DELANEY

Chairman, State Referee Committee