

AYSO Region 106 – 2017 Referee Communication

To: **ALL** Region 106 Referees
CC: All Region 106 Coaches
From: Erik Veach, Region 106 Referee Administrator
Subject: Heading in 6U – 12U

For IMMEDIATE Dispatch

To avoid any confusion concerning heading in divisions 6U through 12U, please reference the passage below which has been copied, verbatim, out of the AYSO National Rules & Regulations:

I. HEADING THE BALL

1. Consistent with the US Soccer mandates on heading the ball, heading is banned for all division players 11U (12U and below for programs without single age divisions) and below in both practices and matches.

Heading for players in 14U is limited to a maximum of thirty (30) minutes per week with no more than 15-20 headers, per player. There is no restriction on heading in matches.

2. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team if a player age 10 or younger, deliberately touches the ball with his/her head during a match. a. The indirect free kick is to be taken from the place where the player touched the ball with his/her head.

b. An indirect free kick awarded to the attacking team inside the opposing team's goal area, must be taken on the goal area line at the point nearest to where the player touched the ball with his/her head.

3. Neither cautions nor send-offs shall be issued for persistent infringement or denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity related to the heading infractions.

This means that we are not to coach or condone kids at these levels to head the ball, in either practice or a match. When refereeing, please consider the intent of the child to play the ball with their head. Not every instance will be a deliberate play on the ball. When in doubt, judge that it was not a deliberate play until proven otherwise.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at:
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