



July 11, 2023

Michigan Sports Concussion Protocols – 2023-24 Season

Association Presidents, Leaders, and Coaches:

It is a requirement of every USA Hockey affiliate program to have a concussion protocol in place. This effort is driven by USA Hockey's Player Safety Committee, in order to ensure that all affiliates are delivering the same message and expectations regarding concussion awareness, education, and administration of a safe return to play for athletes.

As we approach the new 2023-24 season, it is imperative that all participants, families, and association leadership maintain awareness and compliance with Michigan sports concussion laws. This is an effort to ensure the safety of our players.

Per the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS), [Michigan sports concussion legislation](#) requires:

- **All coaches, employees, volunteers, and other adults involved with a youth athletic activity must complete a concussion awareness online training program, which must be re-taken every three years (or more frequently as determined by MDHHS).**
 - Link: [CDC HEADS UP to Youth Sports: Online Training](#)
 - Download the certificate of completion – includes name and date of completion
 - Keep a copy of certificate for personal records, submit a copy to your association
 - **NOTE: Associations are ultimately responsible for maintaining records of compliance**

- **The organizing entity must provide educational materials on the signs/symptoms and consequences of concussions to each youth athlete and their parents/guardians and obtain a signed statement acknowledging receipt of the information for the organizing entity to keep on record.**
 - NOTE: This requirement is fulfilled annually through USA Hockey's Individual Membership Registration (IMR) process.

- **The law also requires immediate removal of an athlete, from physical participation in an athletic activity, who is suspected of sustaining a concussion. The student athlete must then receive written clearance from an appropriate health professional, before he or she can return to physical activity.**
 - MAHA has adopted the [USA Hockey Concussion Management Return to Play Form](#) as the required form for an athlete's return to play. All three signatures are required before a return to play is permitted.

As we prepare to launch the 2023-24 season, please be sure to educate your coaches, employees, adults and volunteers on the requirements associated with the [Michigan Sports Concussion Laws](#), as well as the protocols in place to address them.

Furthermore, please make sure that your association maintains accurate records of compliance to ensure that appropriate training and certifications have been achieved for the new season. It is the intent of USA Hockey to enter de-identified data from the USA Hockey Concussion Return to Play forms into a database to track concussions across all USA Hockey affiliates. With this in mind, it is imperative that all associations in Michigan maintain accurate records on concussion management throughout each season.

Additional resources and support materials can be found on the USA Hockey's [Concussion Information](#) page, as well as the [Concussion Management](#) page of the MAHA website.

Thank you to everyone for your support and cooperation, and we look forward to seeing you at the rink for the 2023-24 season!

Sincerely,

George Atkinson

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President
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Jason Reynolds

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