

February 25, 2013

# Workshop on Sports-Related Concussions in Youth

*“Perspectives of Families, Coaches, and Officials”*

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1 of 5



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# We must change the mindset!

- » Most officials used to play the game they now officiate
  - » *“I toughed it out when I got my bell rung – they can too.”*
  - » *“They keep changing the rules – it’s not tough like it used to be.”*
- » Officials have always been taught when a player gets hurt, get help and stand back
  - » *“Don’t interfere – let them handle it”*
  - » *“You’re not a doctor – you don’t know what to do.”*

# We must educate officials!

- » Officials need training to understand more about concussions
  - » *The science – what is angular acceleration*
  - » *The symptoms*
  - » *The incidents that can lead to a concussion*
  - » *Why rules must change to protect our players*
- » Officials must adapt to protect the players
  - » *Err on the side of safety – call the foul*
  - » *Communicate to “first responder's” what’s the incident that led to the player being hurt – don’t wait to be asked*

# Actions we must take!

- » Governing bodies must mandate / track
  - » *Concussion training for all coaches and officials before they can supervise athletic activities – Ohio has done this via a new state law effective April 26<sup>th</sup>*
  - » *The education of “first responders” to an injury to ask game officials – “Did you see what happened?”*
  - » *The use of video documentation on whether game officials are aggressively enforcing player safety rules*
  - » *Discharging game officials who fail to adapt to rule changes regarding player safety*
  - » *Reporting concussions in ALL sports – help officials adapt*

# Let's Make Our Sports Safer Together!

Thank You



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5 of 5



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