Missouri Youth Soccer Association Statement
On U.S. Soccer Concussion Protocol for Youth Soccer

St. Louis, MO – November 12, 2015 — On Monday, November 9, 2015, U.S. Soccer announced new initiatives intended to reduce the frequency of concussions in youth soccer players. These new guidelines include a ban on heading the ball during any practice session or game for all children age 10 and under. The new U.S. Soccer guidelines will also limit players age 11 to 13 to heading the ball during training sessions, with no heading the ball during games.

The purposes of the new guidelines are to (a) improve concussion awareness and education among youth coaches, referees, parents and players; (b) implement more uniform concussion management and return-to-play protocols for youth players suspected of having suffered a concussion; (c) modify the substitution rules to insure such rules do not serve as an impediment to the evaluation of players who may have suffered a concussion during games; and (d) eliminate heading for children 10 and under and limit heading in practice for children between the ages of 11 and 13. The complete details of the initiative along with a more comprehensive player safety campaign will be announced by U.S. Soccer in the next 30 days.

Missouri Youth Soccer Association Vice President, Chris McDonough, said, “the Missouri Youth Soccer Association has been at the forefront of the initiative to work with youth soccer coaches, referees, administrators, parents and players to improve concussion and head injury awareness, prevention, treatment and return-to-play protocols for youth soccer players
throughout the state. We have offered resources to our members to further this initiative, including, but not limited to, on-line resources via the MYSA website at www.moyouthsoccer.org. Even before the U.S. Soccer announcement, we were already requiring concussion training for all coaches. We enthusiastically support U.S. Soccer’s efforts to protect our children by reducing the risk of concussions and head injuries. We look forward to assisting our members in implementing the new player safety campaign as soon as the details are announced by U.S. Soccer. The safety of our young soccer players is the single most important component of our mission to promote, foster and perpetuate the beautiful game throughout the state. We are absolutely committed to that core principle and we believe U.S. Soccer is doing the right thing to protect our kids here.”

The Missouri Youth Soccer Association is the Missouri state affiliate & member of U.S. Soccer and U.S. Youth Soccer. Members of Missouri Youth Soccer Association automatically become members of U.S. Soccer and U.S. Youth Soccer.

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