

North Carolina Youth Soccer Association

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Greetings All,

Since the last email on heading was sent to you, NCYSA received a number of emails and calls on the issue. The policy presented last week was based entirely on that which was presented by the U S Soccer Federation. Just as many of you have done, so to have many others contacted the Federation voicing their concerns.

NCYSA spoke with the Federation late Friday afternoon and shared with them the many calls and emails from our members. It has been shared with NCYSA recently and again on Friday that the Federation is already looking at implementing a policy change that reads....NO HEADING for all small sided play (12U and younger).

To address the major concern from you regarding 12U teams playing 11U teams and younger (which called for no heading for the 11U team and heading allowed for the 12U team), a Special Called Meeting of the NCYSA Executive Board took place over the weekend to address a change in our policy. The EXBD agreed that NCYSA should make a revision and voted to do so.

That said, the policy for NCYSA regarding heading will be as follows. This supersedes all other emails on this subject.

NO HEADING is allowed in any small sided match (12U and younger).

In matches for 13U and older, the roster/team could include 12U and younger players. A 12U player on the 13U roster/team, may head the ball. For the player 11U or younger playing on a 13U team or older, if heading occurs by a player 11U and younger, the referee will not stop play and issue an indirect free kick. It would be very difficult for a referee to be able during the run of play to determine if a player that heads the ball is 11U or younger or 12U and older. As stated by the Federation, it will be the coach and parent's responsibility to "police" a child 11U and younger on heading in a 13U and older match.

If you have additional questions, let us know.

M. Keith Price

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