Minnesota Boys Lacrosse Concussion Policies

There have been some questions about how to deal with potential concussions. Here is a quick summary of current policies:

If there is any play which could potentially result in a concussion, such as a:

- slash to the head
- cross check to the head
- body check to the head
- big hit
- player’s head hitting the ground or another player,
- shot to the helmet

and a player exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, you are to tell the player’s head coach, “I am removing this player under the concussion rule.” This is not a diagnosis or a concussion, merely a statement that the player must be removed because he may have a concussion.

Once a player is removed, the following policies are in play:

- For all youth games (YLM, MBSLA, summer tournaments, Homegrown youth games) and for MBSLA high school games, once a player is removed they do not return to play that day under any circumstances.

- For non-MBSLA high school level games (e.g., MSHSL, off-season leagues and tournaments) with an Authorized Health Care Professional (AHCP) on site and employed by the school, league, or tournament, the player cannot return to play that day unless cleared by the AHCP (who will generally be an EMT).

- If there is no AHCP employed by the school, league, or tournament present at a high-school level game, the player cannot return to play that day.

These policies are incredibly important, because a player with a concussion who continues playing and receives a second concussion can suffer devastating and possibly fatal consequences. If you need a review of the issues involved, see the “Officials Timeouts” video in your UMLOA online training course and/or the MSHSL concussion course at http://mshsl.org/mshsl/showConcussion.asp