Hudsonville Youth Lacrosse Head Injury Policy

Lacrosse is <u>not</u> inherently more dangerous than other contact sports such as football or hockey.

Hudsonville Area Lacrosse Association will take every precaution and be very conservative in allowing a player who has received a severe blow to the head during practice or games to continue to play.

As a policy, if a player exhibits the symptoms on the next page after receiving a blow to the head, <u>he shall not be allowed to continue to play until he is evaluated and cleared by a qualified medical professional.</u>

If a parent asks that the player return to the game, and a coach or administrator sees evidence of what may be a concussion, the decision will be that the player will not return to play unless evaluated and cleared by a qualified medical professional.

As parents and players, please be honest about concussion symptoms your player may be experiencing after the game. Recent and ongoing research shows that concussions are a bigger problem than we all thought 'when we were kids'. A concussion needs time to heal. If a second or third concussion occurs before the first one is healed, serious brain damage or even death may occur.

Common Symptoms of Concussion

- 1. Headache
- 2. Fogginess
- 3. Difficulty concentrating
- 4. Easily confused
- 5. Slowed thought process
- 6. Difficulty with memory
- 7. Nausea
- 8. Lack of energy, excessive tiredness
- 9. Dizziness or poor balance
- 10. Blurred vision
- 11. Sensitivity to light and sounds
- 12. Mood changes, irritable, anxious or tearful