Response from Northland Suburban Youth Football League:

August 14, 2014

Dear Ms. McCormick.

Thank you for considering Northland Suburban Youth Football in your research for your news article.  We are honored and excited to be a part of the football landscape in the northland and Kansas City.  We are proud to be one of the first leagues in Kansas City to participate in the NFL-sponsored USA Football Heads Up program.  That program is designed to teach and inform its member organizations regarding football related safety issues.

You requested records from our member teams; we will require more time in order to get the needed information.

A few points of interest regarding NSYFL and player safety.  We take the safety of our players very seriously.

·      We recently implemented a USA Football Player Safety Coach (PSC) model in our league.  Each team has a designated PSC who has completed a live training session conducted by USA Football Master Trainers.  The topics that were covered include chapters on proper fitting and sizing of helmets and shoulder pads, Concussion awareness and return to play procedures, Heat and Hydration and the Heads up Football tackling methods.

·      All of our member teams have PSC that are trained to know the concussion signs and symptoms.  See the USA Football Link below to see the information we ask all our coaches to know and understand.  Each coach has been required to take the Level 1 Coaches Certification annually from USA Football.  In that course football fundamentals are reviewed along with injury awareness and equipment fitting.  Each head coach and their assistants are required to pass a back ground check by an independent 3rd party service.  All that pass the back ground check are registered with the KC MO Parks and Rec and issued a Volunteer badge.

<http://usafootball.com/health-safety/concussion-awareness>

·      We also have recently elected a new board member effective in July 2014, Dr. Aaron Rowland, DO.  Dr. Rowland specializes in Primary Care Sports Medicine.  He can treat and diagnose injury in his office, but he is primarily on the Board to act as an advisor regarding Football related medical issues that include Concussion awareness, Heat and Hydration along with advising us on our return to play procedures.

NSYFL follows the National Federation of High Schools and Missouri State High School Athletic Association rules regarding play.  Both governing bodies build and outline the rules that High schools compete under.   Both the NFHS and MSHSAA take player safety paramount above all other aspects of the game.  We at NSYFL also take the safety of the players into consideration in our activities.  Head to Head contact and Targeting is of special emphasis this year.  See the NFHS rule 2, section 20 article 2 – NFSH has defined illegal Targeting as follows: “Targeting is an act of taking aim and initiating contact to an opponent above the shoulders with the helmet, forearm, hand, fist elbow or shoulders.”

We also encourage our member teams to limit “live” action in practice as a safety precaution.  What that means is that many of the drills and methods that are taught are ran in a way that limits throwing a competitor to the ground.  Limited ground contact can lead to less injury

NSYFL takes the safety of the players first and foremost.  We are excited to bring a renewed focus to safety and sportsmanship to the community.  We will continue to seek to uncover areas of opportunities to improve the safety of the player both during the game and at practices. We continue to encourage that our members stay current and up to date on all contemporary practice methods and injury treatments.

Feel free to call with any further questions or concerns.

Regards,

Alan Heyne

President - NSYFL

816-838-4210

