



PLAYER SAFETY COACH

Overview: The Heads Up Football Player Safety Coach program provides youth football organizations a comprehensive solution for a better, safer game. Heads Up Football educates coaches, parents and players on three key elements to enhance player safety: Concussion Awareness and Management, Equipment Fitting and Heads Up Tackling. The Player Safety Coach (PSC) is selected by a commissioner to oversee a youth football organization's implementation of Heads Up Football.

Heads Up Football Player Safety Coach Profile

USA Football recommends commissioners look for the following characteristics in the Player Safety Coach they select for their organization:

- An experienced, credible coach or official that has earned the respect of coaches and parents and is committed to a better, safer game;
- Strong reputation as a role model for players and responsive to parent questions and concerns;
- Leadership qualities, specifically related to teaching and interacting with coaches, parents and players; and
- Shows willingness and a commitment to learn best practices and teach them in your organization.

Player Safety Coach Position Requirements

The Player Safety Coach is to fulfill the following requirements prior to starting the position:

- Nominated as the Player Safety Coach by the youth organization
- Complete Level 1 Coach Certification or Recertification
- Complete and pass a background check with USA Football's background screening provider (NCSI)
- Attend a USA Football Player Safety Coach training clinic offered through in-person or web-based instruction and participate in ongoing training

Player Safety Coach Job Description

USA Football recommends that the Player Safety Coach does not have a team coaching responsibility. This position's profile melds the roles of coaching mentor and parent liaison, especially for Heads Up Tackling and other player safety matters.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Ensure all coaches within the organization have completed the USA Football Level 1 Coach Certification course;
- Conduct one Heads Up Coaches clinic for all coaches (clinic to cover equipment fitting, proper tackling, reducing helmet contact and concussion management);
- Conduct one Player Safety clinic for all parents and players. (clinic to cover equipment fitting, proper tackling, reducing helmet contact and concussion management);
- Assume responsibility for checking that coaches are using approved practice plans, properly teaching Heads Up Tackling and using the Levels of Contact approach to reduce helmet contact in practices;
- Observe practices. As needed, provide guidance to coaches relative to Heads Up Football's points of emphasis;
- Attend games. Serve as an on-field expert, spot-checker and parent liaison at games to advance Heads Up Football and player safety;
- Serve as the local organization expert and point of contact for player health and safety recommendations, particularly from USA Football, the NFL and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and
- Communicate organization concerns, questions and successes to your commissioner and USA Football through Player Safety Coach online dashboard (provided by USA Football).