

FYSA'S POLICY ON WATER BREAKS

Florida's heat and humidity are dangerous to FYSA's players. We can not assume that all players are in shape and properly acclimated to these conditions. Soccer at the youth level is NOT the survival of the fittest and the winner is not to be determined by the last player standing.

We all (parents, coaches, referees, and league and state administrators) share the overriding responsibility for the safety and welfare of the players.

In Florida during most, if not all, of the year, proper hydration, before, DURING, and after a match or training session is a necessity for the safety of the players.

Coaches, review the current weather conditions with the referee before the match. If there is any doubt, request from the referee that a break be given during the match for hydration (and insist that all players participate). Breaks for hydration should be given at a normal stoppage of play at approximately the mid-point of each half. If, in the opinion of the referee, it is needed at other times, grant it. A break is not a coaching opportunity.

Referees, you have the ultimate responsibility under the Laws of the Game to ensure the safety and welfare of the players. These are youth players and this is not the World Cup. Err on the side of caution and permit a break during the normal course of the game. Some days this may be in the second half, some conditions may require it in the first half. USE COMMON SENSE AND GOOD JUDGEMENT. When the break is given, insist that your assistants also hydrate. They are not supermen. Proper hydration will positively affect the play of the match and the performance of the officiating crew.

Coaches, if any referee refuses to grant your request for hydration, do what you must to protect your players, and make sure that you report both the actions of the referee and your actions to the sanctioning body. Referees, if you feel the coach is unjustly requesting breaks, err on the side of caution, but report this to your assignor who will report it to the sanctioning body.

With everyone working together, the matches will get played and all players and officials will leave the match in good condition.

Tommy Thompson
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