



## Catholic School Athletic Association

### ADOPTING USA FOOTBALL'S HEADS UP FOOTBALL PROGRAM FOR 2014 SEASON

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The CSAA is committed to ensuring a positive youth football experience and advancing player safety this fall by providing league-wide coaching education and teaching resources that benefit players, parents and coaches through USA Football's Heads Up Football program.

USA Football is the official youth development partner of the NFL and its 32 teams. CSAA is comprised of more than 1500 players and 400 coaches.

All league coaches will be trained in Heads Up Football techniques before leading their teams this season. They will complete USA Football's accredited Level 1 Coach Certification Course, which includes Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concussion recognition and response protocols; proper helmet and shoulder pad fitting; heat and hydration information from the Korey Stringer Institute; and Heads Up Tackling techniques, which aim to take the head out of the line of contact.

Through Heads Up Football, Player Safety Coaches will be trained by USA Football to implement, evaluate and monitor Heads Up Football player safety protocols within the organization. Player Safety Coaches work with league commissioners, coaches, parents and players throughout the season to provide on-site clinics and mentoring to ensure that coaching and player safety best practices are used.

"Heads Up Football promotes a better, safer game," USA Football Executive Director **SCOTT HALLENBECK** said. "We are proud to have The CSAA join us in leading America's youth football community through Heads Up Football, helping to set the highest standards of player safety and coaching education in any youth sport."

Heads Up Football requires six primary elements:

<b>Coaching education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All coaches within a youth program are trained to teach the game's fundamentals by completing USA Football's nationally accredited Level 1 Coaching Certification Course.</li> </ul>
<b>Player Safety Coach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointed by each participating Heads Up Football youth organization. This individual ensures compliance with Heads Up Football's player safety protocols, including coaching certification and conducting safety clinics for coaches, parents and players.</li> </ul>

<b>Equipment fitting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coaches, parents and players are taught proper helmet and shoulder pad fitting.</li> </ul>
<b>Concussion recognition and response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coaches learn and are assessed on CDC concussion recognition and response through USA Football's Level 1 Coaching Certification Course.</li> <li>Coaches, parents and players are taught concussion-related protocols at the start of the season at a league-wide clinic and have them reinforced throughout the season.</li> </ul>
<b>Heat and hydration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coaches, parents and players learn heat and hydration safety measures provided by the University of Connecticut's Korey Stringer Institute.</li> </ul>
<b>Heads Up Tackling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>USA Football's Heads Up Tackling technique, endorsed by medical and football experts, teaches players to keep their heads up and out of the line of contact.</li> </ul>

USA Football's Heads Up Tackling technique was developed with contributions from USA Football's Tackle Advisory Committee, which includes Northwestern head coach **PAT FITZGERALD**, UCLA head coach **JIM MORA**, former NFL running back **MERRIL HOGE**, Miami Christopher Columbus High School head coach **CHRIS MERRITT** and sports psychologist **DR. DAVID YUKELSON**.

**About USA Football:** USA Football, the sport's national governing body, leads the game's development, inspires participation and ensures a better and safer experience for all youth, high school and other amateur players. The independent nonprofit is the official youth football development partner of the NFL, its 32 teams and the NFL Players Association. USA Football manages U.S. national teams within the sport for international competitions and provides more than \$1 million annually in equipment grants and youth league volunteer background check subsidies. Endowed by the NFL and NFLPA in 2002 through the NFL Youth Football Fund, USA Football ([www.usafootball.com](http://www.usafootball.com)) is chaired by former NFL team executive Carl Peterson.