EPYSA Injury Surveillance Program FAQs for Parents

**Q: What is the purpose of this study?**

The goal of this study is to collect injury information from EPYSA youth soccer teams to improve the health and safety of the players. The collected data will help establish injury prevention initiatives.

**Q: Why should my child participate?**

The data collected during this study is aimed at improving the health and safety of the players. Your child will be directly impacted by improved injury prevention and decreased player risk.

**Q: What will be required of me?**

Each player will have to fill out a pre-season medical questionnaire and a monthly survey about other activity involvement besides soccer. If your child is not injured during the season, there is no further time commitment. If your child is injured you will be contacted via phone to help us gather further information about your child’s injury. All of the forms can be completed online using InjureFree.

**Q: What is InjureFree?**

Injure-free is a confidential online system that we are using to collect data. All forms will be filled out online using this system.

**Q: Is the study endorsed by my soccer club?**

The study is supported by Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association and each participating club. Six soccer clubs are currently participating in the project.

**Q: Is there a cost associated with participation?**

We are providing the use of InjureFree free of charge. There is no direct compensation for participation.

**Q: How to I get started?**

You will receive a follow up email with instructions and a link to create your InjureFree account. Once you create your account you can register your child and fill out the pre-participation questionnaire.

**Q: What injuries are reported?**

Coaches will report injuries that occur during practice or a game. Any injury that requires medical attention or keeps a player from participating in a game or practice will be recorded. You will be able to follow up with your child’s injury by logging on to InjureFree to see the coach’s report. A research assistant will follow up with you by phone to collect more detailed information. If your child is injured outside of soccer, you can report that on the monthly surveys about your child’s other activities.

**Q: What if my child is injured outside of club soccer?**

You will have the opportunity to report your child’s injury on the monthly email surveys you receive. We ask that you please take the time to fill out these questions, as having complete injury information is important for the success of this study.

**Q: Will my child’s information be protected and remain confidential?**

This research project is HIPAA compliant. All of your child’s information will be de-identified and stored on an encrypted server. Individual players will not be identified in any publication. The only personal information that will be collected will allows researchers to contact you to follow up with your child’s injury.

**Q: Can I decline participation?**

You can decline participation, or opt out at any time. We hope that each child at the each selected soccer club is willing to participate to maximize our injury prevention efforts in the future for all area soccer athletes and clubs.

**Q: Whom can I contact if I have further questions about the research project?**

 The principal investigators on the project:

Dr. Kevin Freedman, M.D.: kevin.freedman@rothmaninstitute.com

Dr. Sommer Hammoud, M.D.: sommer.hammoud@rothmaninstitute.com

**Q: Whom can I contact if I am having technical difficulties with Injure-Free?**

You can email support@injurefree.com if you are having technical difficulties. Alternatively you can schedule a one-on-one web conference with an InjureFree representative through the InjureFree website.