



## \*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\*

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# USA FOOTBALL COMMISSIONS THE DATALYS CENTER TO CONDUCT NATIONAL YOUTH FOOTBALL SAFETY SURVEILLANCE STUDY

USA Football has commissioned The Datalys Center to conduct a full-season research study in 2012 to examine player health and safety in organized youth tackle football.

The independent scientific study, the first sponsored by football's national governing body in the United States, is believed to be the first of its scope in youth football's 80-plus year history.

The research will document player health and any sustained injuries during the course of the 2012 season in 10 youth football leagues of varying size and demographics across the United States.

The Datalys Center will place athletic trainers at the leagues' practice and game fields to manage and document player health. The Datalys Center will employ the same intensive methodology to USA Football's Youth Football Safety Surveillance Study as it does for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Injury Surveillance Program and the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) National Athletic Treatment, Injury and Outcomes Network (NATION™).

Results of this study will further strengthen USA Football's widely used development resources, employed by youth football leagues in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. These include digital player and coach skill development resources at [usafootball.com](http://usafootball.com), a unified youth football rulebook and recommended practices for leagues nationwide. USA Football has educated more than 75,000 youth football coaches since 2007 to best teach the sport and manage player health, including suspected concussion, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Approximately 3 million kids age 6-14 play organized youth tackle football, placing it among the America's most popular youth sports. Indianapolis-based USA Football is the official youth football development partner of the NFL, the NFL Players Association and each of the league's 32 teams as well as the NCAA's Atlantic Coast Conference.

USA Football's study will aim to provide new information for America's football community, including:

- Observations about player safety at different ages and at game vs. practice situations;
- Playing standards (player age; player age and weight) that account for the safest play; and
- The incidence and severity of injuries in organized youth tackle football

"The Datalys Center is excited to partner with USA Football on this important and ambitious project with the ultimate goal of making youth football better and safer," said Datalys Center President **THOMAS DOMPIER**. "In addition, this will be one of the most comprehensive assessments of concussion in youth sports to date."

"This ground-breaking research will enable us to strengthen youth football player safety in an evidence-based way," USA Football Executive Director **SCOTT HALLENBECK** said. "USA Football is committed to continue to lead America's football community and discover how our country's favorite sport can be made even better."

**About Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention:** A national 501(c)3 non-profit organization that conducts and facilitates research and surveillance programs, Datalys' programs aim to support the sports injury information needs of organizations focused on improving the health and safety of the growing number of Americans who are physically active. Through Datalys' collection and application of injury and treatment information, policies and education can be developed in order to understand and prevent sports injuries more effectively. For more information, visit [www.datalyscenter.org](http://www.datalyscenter.org)

**About USA Football:** USA Football, the sport's national governing body in the United States, inspires participation, and ensures a positive experience for youth, high school, and other amateur players. The independent non-profit hosts more than 80 football skill development events annually for coaches, players and youth league commissioners. USA Football is the official youth football development partner of the NFL, its 32 teams and the NFL Players Association and manages U.S. national teams for international competition. Endowed by the NFL and NFLPA in 2002 through the NFL Youth Football Fund, USA Football distributes \$1 million annually in equipment grants and offers youth league volunteer background check subsidies. Former NFL team executive Carl Peterson is USA Football's chairman.