New law requires each high school that sponsors or sanctions any athletic activity and which requires a participating student to regularly practice or train and compete to implement a sports injury management program.

New law requires the sports injury management program to:

(1) Establish a set of injuries to be classified as "serious sports injuries" for the purposes of the program and define the signs and symptoms of such injuries.

(2) Require that any coach, athletic trainer, game official, or on-field licensed health care provider remove a student from practice, training, or competition if any of the following circumstances occur:

(a) The student reports any defined sign or symptom of a serious sports injury.

(b) The coach or athletic trainer determines that the student exhibits any defined sign or symptom of a serious sports injury.

(c) The coach is notified that the student has reported or exhibited any defined sign or symptom of a serious sports injury by a licensed, registered, or certified medical practitioner operating within their respective scope of practice; by any other licensed, registered, or certified individual whose scope of practice includes the recognition of symptoms associated with serious sports injuries; by an athletic trainer; or by an official of the athletic competition.

New law provides that any student who is removed from practice, training, or competition due to a serious sports injury:

(1) Shall, as soon as practicable after reporting or exhibiting any sign or symptom of a serious sports injury, be examined by a health professional duly licensed in this state to provide health care services or medical treatment.

(2) May be allowed to return to practice, training, or competition only after the student provides to the coach and an athletic trainer written authorization from a health professional duly licensed in this state to provide health care services or medical treatment.

New law requires that each coach or official in school-sponsored or school-sanctioned athletic activities receive documented training regarding the nature and risk of serious sports injuries.

New law provides that subject to availability of financial resources and supply of the necessary workforce, the sports injury management program shall rely to the greatest possible extent on athletic trainers licensed by the La. State Board of Medical Examiners to provide athletic health care at high school athletic competitions.

New law requires that prior to a student participating in athletic activities, the student and student's parent or guardian must document that they have viewed information provided by the school district regarding risks of serious sports injuries.

New law provides that provisions of new law do not create any liability for, or create a cause of action against, a school, its officers, or its employees.

New law authorizes a school to contract for and accept private contributions, gifts, and grants, or in-kind aid from the federal government, the state, or any other source to implement the sports injury management program.

New law requires BESE to promulgate rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to implement provisions of new law.

New law allows BESE to engage and solicit input from the La. State Board of Medical Examiners and the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee of the La. High School Athletic Association in developing administrative rules required by new law.

New law provides that no school or school system shall be required to incur any financial cost related to implementation of the sports injury management program, unless funds are appropriated by the legislature for such purpose.

New law provides that the sports injury management program shall not encompass concussions; also provides that protocols specific to concussions shall be governed by the La. Youth Concussion Act (Act No. 314 of the 2011 R.S.).

Effective August 15, 2011.

(Adds R.S. 40:1299.181)