

New law provides that the governing authority of each public and nonpublic elementary school, middle school, junior high school, and high school shall:

- (1) Prior to beginning of each athletic season, provide pertinent information to all coaches, officials, volunteers, youth athletes, and their parents/guardian which informs of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including the risks associated with continuing to play after a concussion or head injury.
- (2) Require each coach, whether such coach is employed or a volunteer, and every official of a youth athletic activity that involves interscholastic play to complete an annual concussion recognition education course which is in accordance with the provisions of new law.
- (3) Require as a condition of participation in any athletic activities that the youth athlete and the youth athlete's parents or legal guardian sign a concussion and head injury information sheet which provides adequate notice of the statutory requirements which must be satisfied in order for an athlete who has or is suspected to have suffered a concussion or head injury to return to play.

New law requires each private club or public recreation facility and each athletic league which sponsors youth athletic activities to:

- (1) Prior to beginning of each athletic season, provide pertinent information to all coaches, officials, volunteers, youth athletes, and their parents/guardian which informs of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including the risks associated with continuing to play after a concussion or head injury.
- (2) Require each volunteer coach for a youth athletic activity and each coach with whom the club, facility, or league directly contracts with, formally engages, or employs who coaches a youth athletic activity and each official to complete an annual concussion recognition course which is in accordance with the provisions of new law.
- (3) Require as a condition of participation in any athletic activities that the youth athlete and the youth athlete's parents or legal guardian sign a concussion and head injury information sheet which includes but is not limited to adequate notice of the statutory requirements which must be satisfied in order for an athlete who has or is suspected to have sustained a concussion or head injury to return to play.

New law requires that a concussion recognition education course include the following information:

- (1) How to recognize the signs of and symptoms of a concussion.
- (2) The necessity of obtaining proper medical attention for a person suspected of having sustained a concussion.
- (3) The nature and risk of concussions, including the danger of continuing to play after sustaining a concussion and the proper method and statutory requirements which must be satisfied in order for a youth athlete to return to play in the athletic activity.

New law provides that training material made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "CDC" entitled, "Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports" and any amendments or updates thereto, training material made available by the National Federation of High Schools for the LHSAA, or other training materials substantively and substantially similar to the CDC materials along with dissemination of a copy of the statutory requirements which must be satisfied in order for a youth athlete who has or is suspected to have sustained a concussion to return to play in the athletic activity shall be deemed to satisfy the education requirements provided for in new law.

New law requires that a coach who is required to complete concussion recognition education pursuant to new law shall immediately remove any youth athlete from a game, competition, or practice if certain conditions are present.

New law requires that if a youth athlete is removed from play and the signs and symptoms cannot be readily explained by a condition other than concussion and he is reasonably suspected of having sustained a concussion, the coach shall notify the athlete's parent or legal guardian and shall not permit the youth athlete to return to play or participate in any supervised team activities involving physical exertion, including games, competitions, or practices, until the youth athlete is evaluated by a health care provider and receives written clearance from the health care provider for a graduated or full return to play.

New law provides that after a youth athlete who has sustained a concussion or head injury has been evaluated and received clearance for a graduated return to play from a health care provider, an organization or association of which a school or school district is a member, a private or public school, a private club, a public recreation facility, or an athletic league may allow a licensed athletic trainer with specific knowledge of the athlete's condition to manage the athlete's graduated return to play.

New law does not create any liability for, or create a cause of action against, a school, its officers, or its employees, an organization or association of which a school or school district is a member, a private or public school, a private club, a public recreation facility, or an athletic league when such person or entity has complied with the provisions of new law.

New law requires DHH to promulgate and make available to all public and private middle schools, junior high schools, and high schools, private clubs, public recreation facilities, and each athletic league which sponsors youth athletic activities information which informs of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including the risks associated with continuing to play after a concussion or head injury.

Effective June 28, 2011.

(Adds R.S. 40:1299.181 - 1299.185)