

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 53rd Legislature (2011)

3 SENATE BILL 63

By: Anderson

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to head injuries in youth athletes;  
8 amending Section 1, Chapter 264, O.S.L. 2010 (70 O.S.  
9 Supp. 2010, Section 24-155), which relates to head  
10 injuries in youth athletes; providing for certain  
11 religious exemption; requiring certain waiting  
12 period; providing an effective date; and declaring an  
13 emergency.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 264, O.S.L.  
16 2010 (70 O.S. Supp. 2010, Section 24-155), is amended to read as  
17 follows:

18 Section 24-155. A. Each school district board of education  
19 shall work in cooperation with the Oklahoma Secondary School  
20 Activities Association to develop the guidelines and other pertinent  
21 information and forms to inform and educate coaches, youth athletes,  
22 and their parents or guardians of the nature and risk of concussion  
23 and head injury, including continuing to play after concussion or  
24 head injury. On an annual basis, a concussion and head injury  
information sheet shall be completed and returned to the school

1 district by the youth athlete and the athlete's parent or guardian  
2 prior to the youth athlete's participation in practice or  
3 competition.

4 B. A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion  
5 or head injury during a practice or game shall be removed from  
6 participation at that time.

7 C. A youth athlete who has been removed from participation as  
8 provided in subsection B of this section may not participate until  
9 the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained  
10 in the evaluation and management of concussion and receives written  
11 clearance to return to participation from that health care provider.  
12 The health care provider may be a volunteer. A volunteer who  
13 authorizes a youth athlete to return to participation shall not be  
14 liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission in the  
15 rendering of such care, other than acts or omissions constituting  
16 gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

17 D. A youth athlete who, through a written statement submitted  
18 by a parent, guardian, or legal custodian to the school district,  
19 refuses or states an intention to refuse the evaluation by a  
20 licensed health care provider required in subsection C of this  
21 section on religious grounds shall be exempt from such requirement.  
22 Any youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or  
23 head injury and refuses to receive medical treatment on religious

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1 grounds shall not be permitted to participate in practice or in a  
2 game for a minimum of two (2) weeks following the injury.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2011.

4 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
5 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
6 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
7 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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