

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 1790

By: Anderson of the Senate

3 and

4 Jackson of the House

5
6 [sports-related injuries - concussions - certain
7 training - return to competition penalties -
8 evaluation - immunity - effective date -
emergency]

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

10 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 24-155, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 Section 24-155. A. Each school district board of education
13 shall work in cooperation with the Oklahoma Secondary School
14 Activities Association to develop the guidelines and other pertinent
15 information and forms to inform and educate coaches, youth athletes,
16 and their parents or guardians of the nature and risk of concussion
17 and head injury, including continuing to play after concussion or
18 head injury. On an annual basis, a concussion and head injury
19 information sheet shall be completed and returned to the school
20 district by the youth athlete and the athlete's parent or guardian
21 prior to the youth athlete's participation in practice or
22 competition.

23 B. ~~A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion~~
24 ~~or head injury during a practice or game shall be removed from~~

~~participation at that time~~ On an annual basis, coaches and officials or referees must undergo concussion training provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or comparable program or resource. A record of completion of training course shall be kept on record with the school district board of education.

C. If a youth athlete practicing or competing in an interscholastic athletic event exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury while participating in the practice or competition, the youth athlete shall be removed from the practice or competition by any of the following:

1. Licensed athletic trainer;
2. Individual who is serving as the youth athlete's coach during that practice or competition; or
3. An individual who is serving as a referee during that practice or competition.

D. If a youth athlete is removed from practice or competition as provided in subsection C of this section, the athletic trainer, coach or referee who removed the youth athlete shall not allow the athlete, on the same day the youth athlete is removed, to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach or referee is responsible, unless deemed eligible pursuant to the provisions of subsection E of this section.

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

11 F. Respective governing boards shall establish the following
12 minimum penalties for those individuals listed in subsection C of
13 this section who knowingly violate subsection C or D of this
14 section:

15 1. For a first violation, suspension from involvement in any
16 athletic activity for a period of one month;

17 2. For a second violation, suspension from involvement in any
18 athletic activity for the remainder of the season;

19 3. For a third violation, permanent suspension from involvement
20 in any athletic activity.

21 G. The sponsors of youth athletic activities not associated
22 with a school are encouraged to follow the guidance stated in this
23 act.
24

1 H. All school district boards, including private and charter
2 schools who participate in athletics, must implement a return to
3 learn protocol.

4 I. A youth sports organization shall provide to the parent,
5 guardian, or other person having care or charge of an individual who
6 wishes to practice for or compete in an athletic activity organized
7 by a youth sports organization the concussion and head injury
8 information sheet provided in subsection M of this section. The
9 organization shall provide the information sheet annually for each
10 sport or other category of athletic activity for or in which the
11 individual practices or competes.

12 J. If a youth athlete practicing or competing in an activity
13 organized by a youth sports organization exhibits signs, symptoms,
14 or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head
15 injury while participating in the practice or competition, the youth
16 athlete shall be removed from the practice or competition by any of
17 the following:

- 18 1. Licensed athletic trainer;
19 2. Individual who is serving as the youth athlete's coach
20 during that practice or competition; or
21 3. An individual who is serving as a referee during that
22 practice or competition.

23 K. If a youth athlete is removed from practice or competition
24 as provided in subsection J of this section, the licensed athletic

1 trainer, coach or referee who removed the youth athlete shall not
2 allow the athlete, on the same day the youth athlete is removed, to
3 return to that practice or competition or to participate in any
4 other practice or competition for which the coach or referee is
5 responsible, unless deemed eligible by subsection L of this section.

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

16 M. The State Department of Health shall create a concussion and
17 head injury information sheet for participants in interscholastic
18 athletics and youth sports organizations. The Department shall
19 include in the information sheet pertinent information to inform and
20 educate coaches, athletes, and the parents, guardians, or other
21 persons having care or charge of athletes of the signs and symptoms
22 of concussion or head injury and the risks of continuing to practice
23 for or compete in an athletic event or activity after sustaining a
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1 concussion or head injury. The Department periodically shall review
2 the information sheet and update it accordingly.

3 1. The Department shall make the information sheet available on
4 its internet website in a format suitable for easy downloading and
5 printing.

6 2. The Department shall provide a link on its internet website
7 to one or more free online training programs in recognizing the
8 symptoms of concussions and head injuries.

9 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2014.

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

14 Passed the Senate the 5th day of March, 2014.

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16 _____
17 Presiding Officer of the Senate

18 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
19 2014.

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22 Presiding Officer of the House
23 of Representatives
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