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February 17, 2016

AS AMENDED

SENATE BILL NO. 1164

By: Griffin of the Senate

and

Kirby of the House

[sports-related injuries - concussions - certain
training - youth athletes - State Department of
Health - ~~effective date~~ - **emergency**]

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

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

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

1 prior to the youth athlete's participation in practice or
2 competition.

3 B. ~~A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion~~
4 ~~or head injury during a practice or game shall be removed from~~
5 ~~participation at that time~~ On an annual basis, coaches and officials
6 or referees must undergo and complete concussion training provided
7 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or a
8 comparable program or resource. A record of completion of the
9 training course shall be kept on record with the school district's
10 board of education.

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

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

22 D. If a youth athlete is removed from practice or competition
23 as provided in subsection C of this section, the athletic trainer,
24 coach or referee who removed the youth athlete shall not allow the

1 athlete, on the same day the youth athlete is removed, to return to
2 that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice
3 or competition for which the coach or referee is responsible, unless
4 deemed eligible pursuant to the provisions of subsection E of this
5 section.

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

16 F. Respective governing boards shall establish the following
17 minimum penalties for those individuals listed in subsection C of
18 this section who knowingly violate subsection C or D of this
19 section:

20 1. For a first violation, suspension from involvement in any
21 athletic activity for a period of one (1) month;

22 2. For a second violation, suspension from involvement in any
23 athletic activity for the remainder of the season; and
24

1 3. For a third violation, permanent suspension from involvement
2 in any athletic activity.

3 G. The sponsors of youth athletic activities not associated
4 with a school are encouraged to follow the guidance stated in this
5 act.

6 H. Volunteer coaches or staff of youth sports organizations
7 shall annually undergo and complete concussion training provided by
8 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or a comparable
9 program identified by the state which produces a completion
10 certificate. A record of completion of the training shall be kept
11 on record with the youth sports organization.

12 I. A youth sports organization shall provide to the parent,
13 guardian or other person having care or charge of an individual who
14 wishes to practice for or compete in an athletic activity organized
15 by a youth sports organization the concussion and head injury
16 information sheet provided in subsection M of this section. The
17 youth sports organization shall provide the information sheet
18 annually for each sport or other category of athletic activity for
19 or in which the individual practices or competes.

20 J. If a youth athlete practicing or competing in an activity
21 organized by a youth sports organization exhibits signs, symptoms or
22 behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head
23 injury while participating in the practice or competition, the youth
24

1 athlete shall be removed from the practice or competition by any of
2 the following:

3 1. Licensed athletic trainer;

4 2. Individual who is serving as the youth athlete's coach
5 during that practice or competition; or

6 3. An individual who is serving as a referee during that
7 practice or competition.

8 K. If a youth athlete is removed from practice or competition
9 as provided in subsection J of this section, the licensed athletic
10 trainer, coach or referee who removed the youth athlete shall not
11 allow the athlete, on the same day the youth athlete is removed, to
12 return to that practice or competition or to participate in any
13 other practice or competition for which the coach or referee is
14 responsible, unless deemed eligible by subsection L of this section.

15 L. A youth athlete who has been removed from participation as
16 provided in subsection J of this section may not participate until
17 the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained
18 in the evaluation and management of concussion and receives written
19 clearance to return to participation from that health care provider.
20 The health care provider may be a volunteer. A volunteer who
21 authorizes a youth athlete to return to participation shall not be
22 liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission in the
23 rendering of such care, other than acts or omissions constituting
24 gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. A youth sports

1 organization employee or volunteer, including a coach or referee,
2 shall not be liable for civil damages for injury, death or loss to
3 person or property allegedly arising from any act or omission in
4 providing services or performing duties on behalf of a youth sports
5 organization unless the act or omission constitutes gross negligence
6 or willful, wanton or intentional misconduct.

7 M. The State Department of Health shall create a concussion and
8 head injury information sheet for participants in interscholastic
9 athletics and youth sports organizations. The Department shall
10 include in the information sheet pertinent information to inform and
11 educate coaches, athletes, parents, guardians or other persons
12 having care or charge of athletes of the signs and symptoms of
13 concussion or head injury and the risks of continuing to practice
14 for or compete in an athletic event or activity after sustaining a
15 concussion or head injury. The Department periodically shall review
16 the information sheet and update it accordingly.

17 1. The State Department of Health shall make the information
18 sheet available on its Internet website in a format suitable for
19 easy downloading and printing.

20 2. The State Department of Health shall provide a link on its
21 Internet website to one or more free online training programs in
22 recognizing the symptoms of concussions and head injuries.

23 N. The State Board of Health shall promulgate rules to
24 implement the provisions of this section.

1 ~~SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2016.~~

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

6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
7 February 17, 2016 - DO PASS AS AMENDED
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