

IC 20-34-7

Chapter 7. Student Athletes: Concussions and Head Injuries

IC 20-34-7-1

"Association"

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "association" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-26-14-1.

As added by P.L.144-2011, SEC.1.

IC 20-34-7-1.5

"Organizing entity"

Sec. 1.5. As used in this chapter, "organizing entity" means any person that:

(1) operates:

(A) a recreational;

(B) an intramural; or

(C) an extracurricular;

athletic or sports program for individuals who are less than twenty (20) years of age; and

(2) uses a facility, field, park, or other property that is owned, leased, operated, or maintained by any of the following:

(A) The state.

(B) A political subdivision (as defined in IC 36-1-2-13).

(C) An agency or instrumentality of an entity described in clause (A) or (B).

As added by P.L.34-2014, SEC.1.

IC 20-34-7-2

Dissemination of guidelines, information, and forms

Sec. 2. (a) Before July 1, 2012, the department shall disseminate guidelines, information sheets, and forms to each school corporation for distribution to a school to inform and educate coaches, student athletes, and parents of student athletes of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury to student athletes, including the risks of continuing to play after concussion or head injury.

(b) The department:

(1) may consult with the association, medical professionals, and others with expertise in diagnosing and treating concussions and head injuries; and

(2) may request the assistance of the association in disseminating the guidelines, information sheets, and forms required under subsection (a).

(c) The department may disseminate the materials required under this section in an electronic format.

As added by P.L.144-2011, SEC.1.

IC 20-34-7-3

Information and forms required before beginning practice for sport

Sec. 3. Each year, before beginning practice for an interscholastic

or intramural sport, a high school student athlete and the student athlete's parent:

- (1) must be given the information sheet and form described in section 2 of this chapter; and
- (2) shall sign and return the form acknowledging the receipt of the information to the student athlete's coach.

The coach shall maintain a file of the completed forms.

As added by P.L.144-2011, SEC.1.

IC 20-34-7-4

Player suspected of sustaining concussion or head injury; removal from play; prohibition against returning to play

Sec. 4. A high school student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game:

- (1) shall be removed from play at the time of the injury; and
- (2) may not return to play until the student athlete has received a written clearance under section 5(a) of this chapter.

As added by P.L.144-2011, SEC.1.

IC 20-34-7-5

Health care provider's clearance necessary to return to play; volunteer health care provider immunity

Sec. 5. (a) A high school student athlete who has been removed from play under section 4 of this chapter may not return to play until:

- (1) the student athlete:
 - (A) is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and head injuries; and
 - (B) receives a written clearance to return to play from the health care provider who evaluated the student athlete; and
- (2) not less than twenty-four (24) hours have passed since the student athlete was removed from play.

(b) A licensed health care provider who evaluates a student athlete under subsection (a) may conduct the evaluation as a volunteer. A volunteer health care provider who in good faith and gratuitously authorizes a student athlete to return to play is not liable for civil damages resulting from an act or omission in the rendering of an evaluation, except for acts or omissions that constitute gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

As added by P.L.144-2011, SEC.1. Amended by P.L.34-2014, SEC.2.

IC 20-34-7-6

Certified coaching education course; coaching services immunity

Sec. 6. (a) As used in this section, "football" does not include flag football.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2014, prior to coaching football to individuals who are less than twenty (20) years of age, each head football coach and assistant football coach shall complete a certified coaching education course that:

- (1) is sport specific;

- (2) contains player safety content, including content on:
 - (A) concussion awareness;
 - (B) equipment fitting;
 - (C) heat emergency preparedness; and
 - (D) proper technique;
- (3) requires a coach to complete a test demonstrating comprehension of the content of the course; and
- (4) awards a certificate of completion to a coach who successfully completes the course.

(c) For a coach's completion of a course to satisfy the requirement imposed by subsection (b), the course must have been approved by the department.

(d) A coach shall complete a course not less than once during a two (2) year period. However, if the coach receives notice from the organizing entity that new information has been added to the course before the end of the two (2) year period, the coach must:

- (1) complete instruction; and
- (2) successfully complete a test;

concerning the new information to satisfy the requirement imposed by subsection (b).

(e) An organizing entity shall maintain a file of certificates of completion awarded under subsection (b)(4) to any of the organizing entity's head coaches and assistant coaches.

(f) A coach who complies with this section and provides coaching services in good faith is not personally liable for damages in a civil action as a result of a concussion or head injury incurred by an athlete participating in an athletic activity in which the coach provided coaching services, except for an act or omission by the coach that constitutes gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

As added by P.L.34-2014, SEC.3.