

## CHAPTER 2012-167

### Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 291

An act relating to youth athletes; amending ss. 943.0438 and 1006.20, F.S.; requiring an independent sanctioning authority for youth athletic teams and the Florida High School Athletic Association to adopt guidelines, bylaws, and policies relating to the nature and risk of concussion and head injury in youth athletes; requiring informed consent for participation in practice or competition; requiring removal from practice or competition under certain circumstances and written medical clearance to return; requiring the Florida High School Athletic Association to adopt bylaws for the establishment and duties of a sports medicine advisory committee; specifying membership; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraphs (e), (f), and (g) are added to subsection (2) of section 943.0438, Florida Statutes, to read:

943.0438 Athletic coaches for independent sanctioning authorities.—

(2) An independent sanctioning authority shall:

(e) Adopt guidelines to educate athletic coaches, officials, administrators, and youth athletes and their parents or guardians of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury.

(f) Adopt bylaws or policies that require the parent or guardian of a youth who is participating in athletic competition or who is a candidate for an athletic team to sign and return an informed consent that explains the nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including the risk of continuing to play after concussion or head injury, each year before participating in athletic competition or engaging in any practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity associated with the youth's candidacy for an athletic team.

(g) Adopt bylaws or policies that require each youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or competition to be immediately removed from the activity. A youth athlete who has been removed from an activity may not return to practice or competition until the youth submits to the athletic coach a written medical clearance to return stating that the youth athlete no longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or other head injury. Medical clearance must be authorized by the appropriate health care practitioner trained in the diagnosis, evaluation, and management of concussions as defined by the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee of the Florida High School Athletic Association.

Section 2. Paragraphs (e), (f), (g), and (h) are added to subsection (2) of section 1006.20, Florida Statutes, to read:

1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.—

(2) ADOPTION OF BYLAWS, POLICIES, OR GUIDELINES.—

(e) The organization shall adopt guidelines to educate athletic coaches, officials, administrators, and student athletes and their parents of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury.

(f) The organization shall adopt bylaws or policies that require the parent of a student who is participating in interscholastic athletic competition or who is a candidate for an interscholastic athletic team to sign and return an informed consent that explains the nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including the risk of continuing to play after concussion or head injury, each year before participating in interscholastic athletic competition or engaging in any practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity associated with the student's candidacy for an interscholastic athletic team.

(g) The organization shall adopt bylaws or policies that require each student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or competition to be immediately removed from the activity. A student athlete who has been removed from an activity may not return to practice or competition until the student submits to the school a written medical clearance to return stating that the student athlete no longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or other head injury. Medical clearance must be authorized by the appropriate health care practitioner trained in the diagnosis, evaluation, and management of concussions as defined by the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee of the Florida High School Athletic Association.

(h) The organization shall adopt bylaws for the establishment and duties of a sports medicine advisory committee composed of the following members:

1. Eight physicians licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 with at least one member licensed under chapter 459.

2. One chiropractor licensed under chapter 460.

3. One podiatrist licensed under chapter 461.

4. One dentist licensed under chapter 466.

5. Three athletic trainers licensed under part XIII of chapter 468.

6. One member who is a current or retired head coach of a high school in the state.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.

Approved by the Governor April 27, 2012.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 27, 2012.