

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to youth athletes; amending ss.
 3 943.0438 and 1006.20, F.S.; requiring an independent
 4 sanctioning authority for youth athletic teams and the
 5 Florida High School Athletic Association to adopt
 6 guidelines, bylaws, and policies relating to the
 7 nature and risk of concussion and head injury in youth
 8 athletes; requiring informed consent for participation
 9 in practice or competition; requiring removal from
 10 practice or competition under certain circumstances
 11 and written medical clearance to return; providing an
 12 effective date.

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

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

18 943.0438 Athletic coaches for independent sanctioning
 19 authorities.—

20 (2) An independent sanctioning authority shall:

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

25 (f) Adopt bylaws or policies that require the parent or
 26 guardian of a youth who is participating in athletic competition
 27 or who is a candidate for an athletic team to sign and return an
 28 informed consent that explains the nature and risk of concussion

29 and head injury, including the risk of continuing to play after
30 concussion or head injury, each year before participating in
31 athletic competition or engaging in any practice, tryout,
32 workout, or other physical activity associated with the youth's
33 candidacy for an athletic team.

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

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

49 1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.—

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

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

55 (f) The organization shall adopt bylaws or policies that
56 require the parent of a student who is participating in

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57 interscholastic athletic competition or who is a candidate for
58 an interscholastic athletic team to sign and return an informed
59 consent that explains the nature and risk of concussion and head
60 injury, including the risk of continuing to play after
61 concussion or head injury, each year before participating in
62 interscholastic athletic competition or engaging in any
63 practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity associated
64 with the student's candidacy for an interscholastic athletic
65 team.

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

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