

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

12
 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14
 15 Section 1. Paragraphs (e), (f), and (g) are added to
 16 subsection (2) of section 943.0438, Florida Statutes, to read:

17 943.0438 Athletic coaches for independent sanctioning
 18 authorities.—

19 (2) An independent sanctioning authority shall:

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

23 (f) Adopt bylaws or policies that require the parent or
 24 guardian of a youth participating in athletic competition or who
 25 is a candidate for an athletic team to sign and return an
 26 informed consent that explains the nature and risk of concussion
 27 and head injury, including the risk of continuing to play after
 28 concussion or head injury, each year before participating in

29 athletic competition or engaging in any practice, tryout,
 30 workout, or other physical activity associated with the
 31 student's candidacy for an athletic team.

32 (g) Adopt bylaws or policies that require each youth
 33 athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head
 34 injury in a practice or competition to be removed from practice
 35 or competition at that time. A youth athlete who has been
 36 removed from practice or competition may not return to practice
 37 or competition until the youth receives written clearance to
 38 return from a health care practitioner who is licensed under
 39 chapter 458 or chapter 459 or certified under s. 464.012 and who
 40 is in active clinical practice.

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

43 1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.—

44 (2) ADOPTION OF BYLAWS.—

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

49 (f) The organization shall adopt bylaws or policies that
 50 require the parent of a student who is participating in
 51 interscholastic athletic competition or who is a candidate for
 52 an interscholastic athletic team to sign and return an informed
 53 consent that explains the nature and risk of concussion and head
 54 injury, including the risk of continuing to play after
 55 concussion or head injury, each year before participating in
 56 interscholastic athletic competition or engaging in any

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57 practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity associated
58 with the student's candidacy for an interscholastic athletic
59 team.

60 (g) The organization shall adopt bylaws or policies that
61 require each student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a
62 concussion or head injury in a practice or competition to be
63 removed from practice or competition at that time. A student
64 athlete who has been removed from practice or competition may
65 not return to practice or competition until the student receives
66 written clearance to return from a health care practitioner who
67 is licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 or certified under
68 s. 464.012 and who is in active clinical practice.

69 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.