

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 physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter
 39 459. Prior to issuing a written clearance to return to play, a
 40 physician may:

41 1. Delegate the performance of medical acts to a health
 42 care provider licensed or certified under s. 458.347, s.
 43 459.022, s. 464.012, or s. 468.707 with whom the physician
 44 maintains a formal supervisory relationship or an established
 45 written protocol that identifies the medical acts or evaluations
 46 to be performed and conditions for their performance and that
 47 attests to proficiency in the evaluation and management of
 48 concussions.

49 2. Consult with, or utilize testing and evaluation of
 50 cognitive functions performed by, a neuropsychologist licensed
 51 under chapter 490.

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

54 1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.—

55 (2) ADOPTION OF BYLAWS.—

56 (e) The organization shall adopt guidelines to educate

57 athletic coaches, officials, administrators, student athletes,
58 and their parents of the nature and risk of concussion and head
59 injury.

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

71 (g) The organization shall adopt bylaws or policies that
72 require each student athlete who is suspected of sustaining a
73 concussion or head injury in a practice or competition to be
74 removed from practice or competition at that time. A student
75 athlete who has been removed from practice or competition may
76 not return to practice or competition until the student receives
77 written clearance to return from a physician licensed under
78 chapter 458 or chapter 459. Prior to issuing a written clearance
79 to return to play, a physician may:

80 1. Delegate the performance of medical acts to a health
81 care practitioner licensed or certified under s. 458.347, s.
82 459.022, s. 464.012, or s. 468.707 with whom the physician
83 maintains a formal supervisory relationship or an established
84 written protocol that identifies the medical acts or evaluations

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85 to be performed and conditions for their performance and that
86 attests to proficiency in the evaluation and management of
87 concussions.

88 2. Consult with, or utilize testing and evaluation of
89 cognitive functions performed by, a neuropsychologist licensed
90 under chapter 490.

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