

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 who is trained in the evaluation and management of
40 concussions. Prior to issuing a written clearance to play, a
41 physician may:

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

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

53 3. Consult with or utilize evaluations performed by a
54 chiropractic physician licensed under chapter 460.

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

57 | 1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.—

58 | (2) ADOPTION OF BYLAWS.—

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

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

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

84 | 1. Delegate the performance of medical acts to a health

85 care practitioner licensed or certified under s. 458.347, s.
86 459.022, s. 464.012, or s. 468.707 with whom the physician
87 maintains a formal supervisory relationship or an established
88 written protocol that identifies the medical acts or evaluations
89 to be performed and conditions for their performance and that
90 attests to proficiency in the evaluation and management of
91 concussions.

92 2. Consult with, or utilize testing and evaluation of
93 cognitive functions performed by, a neuropsychologist licensed
94 under chapter 490.

95 3. Consult with or utilize evaluations performed by a
96 chiropractic physician licensed under chapter 460.

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