

# Concussion Training

Governor Dayton signed HF 905 & SF 612 into law on May 27, 2011. This law can be found at section 121A.37 and 121A.38 of the Minnesota Code, as part of the education code and the chapter on student rights, responsibilities and behavior. (Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.37 through 121A.38).

Section 121A.37 requires that any organization that organizes youth sports activities for which any fee is charged must make information about concussions available to coaches, parents and youth athletes. This section also mandates concussion training for coaches. **Coaches are required to remove a player suspected of sustaining a concussion, and the player may not return until evaluated by a medical professional and given written clearance.** Section 121A.38 provides definitions of the important terms in the previous section and also delineates rules and procedures for concussions in school-based or school-sponsored sports which are substantially similar to the requirements under 121A.37.

The official versions of these sections are currently available online at:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=121A.37>

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=121A.38>

The text of the bill can be viewed online at:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bin/bldbill.php?bill=H0905.0.html&session=1s87>

## **121A.37 YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS.**

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(a) Consistent with section [121A.38](#), any municipality, business, or nonprofit organization that organizes a youth athletic activity for which an activity fee is charged shall:

(1) make information accessible to all participating coaches, officials, and youth athletes and their parents or guardians about the nature and risks of concussions, including the effects and risks of continuing to play after receiving a concussion, and the protocols and content, consistent with current medical knowledge from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, related to:

- (i) the nature and risks of concussions associated with athletic activity;
- (ii) the signs, symptoms, and behaviors consistent with a concussion;
- (iii) the need to alert appropriate medical professionals for urgent diagnosis and treatment when a youth athlete is suspected or observed to have received a concussion; and
- (iv) the need for a youth athlete who sustains a concussion to follow proper medical direction and protocols for treatment and returning to play; and

(2) require all participating coaches and officials to receive initial online training and online training at least once every three calendar years thereafter, consistent with clause (1) and the Concussion in Youth Sports online training program available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site.

(b) A coach or official shall remove a youth athlete from participating in any youth athletic activity when the youth athlete:

- (1) exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion; or
- (2) is suspected of sustaining a concussion.

(c) When a coach or official removes a youth athlete from participating in a youth athletic activity because of a concussion, the youth athlete may not again participate in the activity until the youth athlete:

- (1) no longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion; and
- (2) is evaluated by a provider trained and experienced in evaluating and managing concussions and the provider gives the youth athlete written permission to again participate in the activity.

(d) Failing to remove a youth athlete from an activity under this section does not violate section [604A.11, subdivision 2](#), clause (6), consistent with paragraph (e).

(e) This section does not create any additional liability for, or create any new cause of legal action against, a municipality, business, or nonprofit organization or any officer, employee, or volunteer of a municipality, business, or nonprofit organization.

(f) For the purposes of this section, a municipality means a home rule charter city, a statutory city, or a town.

# Managers/Coaches Training and Education

All HALL Managers and Coaches must:

- 1) Complete a training course on signs and symptoms of a concussion. The training is located at the following link:
  - a) <http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/Training/HeadsUpConcussion.html>
- 2) Be aware of a player's actions and observe how they act when coming off the field after suffering a potential concussion.
- 3) Be aware that a concussion may occur anytime during play. A concussion is not always caused by big hits. Managers/Coaches should be aware of the players actions and responses after any potential concussion event. Players who appear injured should be removed from play and assessed in the dugout. Parents know their player BEST. If a parent feels their child is exhibiting signs of an injury, the parent should immediately notify the coaches so players can be assessed in the dugout.
- 4) If a player showing any visual, neurological, or complaining of any signs or symptoms of a concussion, managers/coaches should immediately get medical attention for the player. If no immediate medical professional is available, the parent should be summoned (if on site). If parent(s) are not on site, 9-1-1 will be called by the O.D.
- 5) A player who after communicating or showing signs of visual or neurological impairment will, will sit out a minimum of 15 minutes for rest and assessment. The player should be re-assessed after 15 minutes. If NO visual or neurological impairments are noted the player may return to play at the discretion of the Manager. If any visual or neurological impairments remain after the rest period, the player may NOT return to play until seen by a qualified physician.
- 6) 9-1-1 will be called for a player in the following instances (if no EMT or qualified medical provider is available on-site):
  - a) Unconscious player or any player with total or momentary loss of consciousness or memory during or after play.
  - b) Complaint of neck or back pain, or loss of mobility or feeling in any arm or leg.
  - c) Complaint of headache and/or dizziness getting worse.
  - d) Any player who vomits during or after play.
- 7) If parent(s) are on site it is their discretion if they wish to have their child transported. Let the parents communicate with the ambulance crew regarding transport and care.