



# INFORMATION BULLETIN

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**To:** Ontario Soccer; District Membership, Associate Members  
**CC:** Ontario Soccer Staff  
**From:** Patty Forbes, Sr. Director Corporate  
**Subject:** Rowan's Law Mandatory Implementation

[Rowan's Law](#) is an Ontario safety law passed by the Government of Ontario to protect athletes from the dangers of concussions. It was named in memory of Rowan Stringer, a high-school rugby player who died in 2013 after suffering multiple concussions. The law requires sports organizations, schools, and participants to follow concussion-awareness rules—such as mandatory education, removal-from-sport protocols, and safe return-to-play steps—to help prevent, recognize, and properly manage concussions in youth sports.

Ontario Soccer remains committed to upholding the mandatory requirements of [Rowans Law Concussion Safety Management](#), provincial legislation designed to protect athlete safety and promote concussion awareness, prevention, and proper care in amateur sport. Rowan's Law implementation remains the legal responsibility of organizations and individuals to ensure full compliance with the laws of Ontario.

## Mandatory Rowan's Law Requirements

### 1. Concussion Awareness Confirmation (Annual)

Effective July 1, 2019, the following individuals must **annually confirm** they have reviewed Ontario's Concussion Awareness Resources:

- Athletes under 26 years of age
- Parents/Guardians of athletes under 18
- Coaches and Team Officials
- Match Officials

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## 2. Concussion Code of Conduct

Organizations must establish a **Concussion Code of Conduct** outlining rules of behavior that support concussion prevention.

Each year, the following individuals **must review and sign** the applicable Code of Conduct:

- Athletes
- Coaches and Team Officials

## 3. Removal-from-Sport and Return-to-Sport Protocols

Effective **July 1, 2020**, organizations must have established:

- Removal-from-Sport Protocol
- Return-to-Sport Protocol

These protocols must be followed without exception when a concussion is suspected or diagnosed.

## Resources and Templates

Ontario Soccer encourages all organizations to review the following:

- **Ontario Soccer Website** – [Concussion Resources](#)
- **Government of Ontario** – [Government Resources](#)

## Summary

Rowan's Law is in place to protect the health and safety of athletes and to support a consistent, province-wide culture of safe sport. Compliance with its requirements is a legal responsibility for all organizations operating in Ontario. Ontario Soccer expects all Members to ensure that Rowan's Law obligations are fully implemented, understood, and applied on an ongoing basis.

Failure to comply not only increases the risk of harm to participants but also places full responsibility and potential liability with the non-compliant organization.

For further information, please contact Nicky Pearson, Compliance Officer at [npearson@ontariosoccer.net](mailto:npearson@ontariosoccer.net)

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