



## Ohio Revised Code

### Section 3313.539 Concussions and school athletics.

Effective: September 17, 2014

Legislation: House Bill 487 - 130th General Assembly

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(A) As used in this section:

(1) "Licensing agency" has the same meaning as in section 4745.01 of the Revised Code.

(2) "Licensed health care professional" means an individual, other than a physician, who is authorized under Title XLVII of the Revised Code to practice a health care profession.

(3) "Physician" means a person authorized under Chapter 4731. of the Revised Code to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery.

(B) No school district board of education or governing authority of a chartered or nonchartered nonpublic school shall permit a student to practice for or compete in interscholastic athletics until the student has submitted, to a school official designated by the board or governing authority, a form signed by the parent, guardian, or other person having care or charge of the student stating that the student and the parent, guardian, or other person having care or charge of the student have received the concussion and head injury information sheet required by section 3707.52 of the Revised Code. A completed form shall be submitted each school year, as defined in section 3313.62 of the Revised Code, for each sport or other category of interscholastic athletics for or in which the student practices or competes.

(C)(1) No school district board of education or governing authority of a chartered or nonchartered nonpublic school shall permit an individual to coach interscholastic athletics unless the individual holds a pupil-activity program permit issued under section 3319.303 of the Revised Code for coaching interscholastic athletics.

(2) No school district board of education or governing authority of a chartered or nonchartered nonpublic school shall permit an individual to referee interscholastic athletics unless the individual holds a pupil-activity program permit issued under section 3319.303 of the Revised Code for



coaching interscholastic athletics or presents evidence that the individual has successfully completed, within the previous three years, a training program in recognizing the symptoms of concussions and head injuries to which the department of health has provided a link on its internet web site under section 3707.52 of the Revised Code or a training program authorized and required by an organization that regulates interscholastic athletic competition and conducts interscholastic athletic events.

(D) If a student practicing for or competing in an interscholastic athletic event exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury while participating in the practice or competition, the student shall be removed from the practice or competition by either of the following:

- (1) The individual who is serving as the student's coach during that practice or competition;
- (2) An individual who is serving as a referee during that practice or competition.

(E)(1) If a student is removed from practice or competition under division (D) of this section, the coach or referee who removed the student shall not allow the student, on the same day the student is removed, to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach or referee is responsible. Thereafter, the coach or referee shall not allow the student to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach or referee is responsible until both of the following conditions are satisfied:

(a) The student's condition is assessed by any of the following who has complied with the requirements in division (E)(4) of this section:

- (i) A physician;
- (ii) A licensed health care professional the school district board of education or governing authority of the chartered or nonchartered nonpublic school, pursuant to division (E)(2) of this section, authorizes to assess a student who has been removed from practice or competition under division (D) of this section;



(iii) A licensed health care professional who meets the minimum education requirements established by rules adopted under section 3707.521 of the Revised Code by the professional's licensing agency.

(b) The student receives written clearance that it is safe for the student to return to practice or competition from the physician or licensed health care professional who assessed the student's condition.

(2) A school district board of education or governing authority of a chartered or nonchartered nonpublic school may authorize a licensed health care professional to make an assessment or grant a clearance for purposes of division (E)(1) of this section only if the professional is acting in accordance with one of the following, as applicable to the professional's authority to practice in this state:

(a) In consultation with a physician;

(b) Pursuant to the referral of a physician;

(c) In collaboration with a physician;

(d) Under the supervision of a physician.

(3) A physician or licensed health care professional who makes an assessment or grants a clearance for purposes of division (E)(1) of this section may be a volunteer.

(4) Beginning one year after the effective date of this amendment, all physicians and licensed health care professionals who conduct assessments and clearances under division (E)(1) of this section must meet the minimum education requirements established by rules adopted under section 3707.521 of the Revised Code by their respective licensing agencies.

(F) A school district board of education or governing authority of a chartered or nonchartered nonpublic school that is subject to the rules of an interscholastic conference or an organization that



regulates interscholastic athletic competition and conducts interscholastic athletic events shall be considered to be in compliance with divisions (B), (D), and (E) of this section, as long as the requirements of those rules are substantially similar to the requirements of divisions (B), (D), and (E) of this section.

(G)(1) A school district, member of a school district board of education, or school district employee or volunteer, including a coach or referee, is not liable in damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly arising from providing services or performing duties under this section, unless the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton misconduct.

This section does not eliminate, limit, or reduce any other immunity or defense that a school district, member of a school district board of education, or school district employee or volunteer, including a coach or referee, may be entitled to under Chapter 2744. or any other provision of the Revised Code or under the common law of this state.

(2) A chartered or nonchartered nonpublic school or any officer, director, employee, or volunteer of the school, including a coach or referee, is not liable in damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly arising from providing services or performing duties under this section, unless the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton misconduct.