



Ohio Revised Code

Section 3707.511 Concussion awareness, training and procedures in youth sports organizations.

Effective: September 17, 2014

Legislation: House Bill 487 - 130th General Assembly

(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) A youth sports organization shall provide to the parent, guardian, or other person having care or charge of an individual who wishes to practice for or compete in an athletic activity organized by a youth sports organization the concussion and head injury information sheet required by section 3707.52 of the Revised Code. The organization shall provide the information sheet annually for each sport or other category of athletic activity for or in which the individual practices or competes.

(C)(1) No individual shall act as a coach or referee for a youth sports organization 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.

(2) The youth sports organization for which the individual intends to act as a coach or referee shall inform the individual of the requirement described in division (C)(1) of this section.

(D) If an individual practicing for or competing in an athletic event organized by a youth sports



organization exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury while participating in the practice or competition, the individual shall be removed from the practice or competition by one of the following:

- (1) The individual who is serving as the individual's coach during that practice or competition;
- (2) An individual who is serving as a referee during that practice or competition;
- (3) An official of the youth sports organization who is supervising that practice or competition.

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

(a) The individual'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 youth sports organization, pursuant to division (E)(2) of this section, authorizes to assess an individual 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 individual receives written clearance that it is safe for the individual to return to practice or competition from the physician or licensed health care professional who assessed the individual's



condition.

(2) A youth sports organization 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)(1) A youth sports organization or official, employee, or volunteer of a youth sports organization, 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.

(2) This section does not eliminate, limit, or reduce any other immunity or defense that a public entity, public official, or public employee may be entitled to under Chapter 2744. or any other provision of the Revised Code or under the common law of this state.