

Sports Concussions

This Act requires school districts ensure coaches get annual training to recognize when players exhibit concussion symptoms and how to seek proper medical treatment for players who exhibit such symptoms. The bill prohibits coaches from allowing players to practice or play in a game if the player exhibits concussion symptoms or has been diagnosed as having had a concussion until the player is cleared to play by a health care professional.

Submitted as:

Oregon

[SB 348 / Chapter 661, 2009 Laws](#)

Status: Enacted into law in 2009.

Comment: A [U.S. Department of Health And Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Fact Sheet for Coaches](#) states “A concussion is an injury that changes how the cells in the brain normally work. Even a ‘ding,’ ‘getting your bell rung,’ or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious.”

Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

1 Section 1. [*Short Title.*] This Act shall be cited as “An Act Relating to School Sports
2 Safety.”

3
4 Section 2. [*School Athletics and Concussions.*]

5 (1) As used in this section, “coach” means a person who instructs or trains members on a
6 school athletic team, as identified by criteria established by the [state board of education] by rule
7 under [insert citation].

8 (2) (a) Each school district shall ensure that coaches receive annual training to learn
9 how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion and how to seek proper medical treatment for a
10 person suspected of having a concussion.

11 (b) The [board] shall establish by rule the requirements of the training described in
12 paragraph (2)(a) of this section, which shall be provided by using community resources to the
13 extent practicable and timelines to ensure that, to the extent practicable, every coach receives the
14 training described in paragraph (2)(a) of this section before the beginning of the season for the
15 school athletic team.

16 (3) (a) A coach may not allow a member of a school athletic team to participate in any
17 athletic event or training on the same day that the member exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors
18 consistent with a concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the head or body, or if
19 the member has been diagnosed with a concussion.

20 (b) A coach may allow a member of a school athletic team who is prohibited from
21 participating in an athletic event or training, as described in paragraph (2)(a) of this section, to
22 participate in an athletic event or training no sooner than the day after the member experienced a
23 blow to the head or body and only after the member no longer exhibits signs, symptoms or

24 behaviors consistent with a concussion and receives a medical release form from a health care
25 professional.

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27 Section 3. [*Severability.*] [Insert severability clause.]

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29 Section 4. [*Repealer.*] [Insert repealer clause.]

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31 Section 5. [*Effective Date.*] [Insert effective date.]