

1 AN ACT relating to interscholastic athletics.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 160.445 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education or organization or agency designated by
5 the board to manage interscholastic athletics shall require each interscholastic
6 coach to complete a sports safety course consisting of training on how to
7 prevent common injuries. The content of the course shall include but not be
8 limited to emergency planning, heat and cold illnesses, emergency
9 recognition, head injuries including concussions, neck injuries, facial injuries,
10 cardiopulmonary resuscitation, use of a portable automated external
11 defibrillator in accordance with KRS 311.667, ~~and~~ principles of first aid,
12 **and the psychological concerns in the student athlete.** The course shall also
13 be focused on safety education and shall not include coaching principles.

14 (b) The state board or its agency shall:

- 15 1. Establish a minimum timeline for a coach to complete the course;
- 16 2. Approve providers of a sports safety course;
- 17 3. Be responsible for ensuring that an approved course is taught by
18 qualified professionals who shall either be athletic trainers, registered
19 nurses, physicians, or physician's assistants licensed to practice in
20 Kentucky;
- 21 4. Establish the minimum qualifying score for successful course
22 completion; and
- 23 5. Require a coach to earn a cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification
24 recognized by a national accrediting body on heart health.

25 (c) A course shall be reviewed for updates at least once every thirty (30) months
26 and revised if needed.

27 (d) A course shall be able to be completed through hands-on or online teaching

1 methods in ten (10) clock hours or less.

2 (e) 1. A course shall include an end-of-course examination with a minimum
3 qualifying score for successful course completion established by the
4 board or its agency.

5 2. All coaches shall be required to take the end-of-course examination and
6 shall obtain at least the minimum qualifying score.

7 (f) At least one (1) person who has completed the course shall be at every
8 interscholastic athletic practice and competition.

9 (2) (a) The state board or its agency shall require each interscholastic coach to
10 complete training on how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion and how
11 to seek proper medical treatment for a person suspected of having a
12 concussion. The training shall be approved by the state board or its agency
13 and may be included in the sports safety course required under subsection
14 (1)(a) of this section.

15 (b) The board or its agency shall develop guidelines and other pertinent
16 information or adopt materials produced by other agencies to inform and
17 educate student athletes and their parents or legal guardians of the nature and
18 risk of concussion and head injury, including the continuance of play after
19 concussion or head injury. Any required physical examination and parental
20 authorization shall include acknowledgement of the education information
21 required under this paragraph.

22 (c) Upon request, the board or its agency shall make available to the public any
23 training materials developed by the board or agency used to satisfy the
24 requirements of paragraph (a) of this subsection. The board or its agency shall
25 not be held liable for the use of any training materials so disseminated.

26 (3) (a) A student athlete suspected by an interscholastic coach, school athletic
27 personnel, or contest official of sustaining a concussion during an athletic

1 practice or competition shall be removed from play at that time and shall not
2 return to play prior to the ending of the practice or competition until the
3 athlete is evaluated to determine if a concussion has occurred. The evaluation
4 shall be completed by a physician or a licensed health care provider whose
5 scope of practice and training includes the evaluation and management of
6 concussions and other brain injuries. A student athlete shall not return to play
7 on the date of a suspected concussion absent the required evaluation.

- 8 (b) 1. Upon completion of the required evaluation, a coach:
- 9 a. May return a student athlete to play if the physician or licensed
10 health care provider determines that no concussion has occurred;
11 or
12 b. Shall not return a student athlete to play if the physician or
13 licensed health care provider determines that a concussion has
14 occurred.
- 15 2. If no physician or licensed health care provider described in paragraph
16 (a) of this subsection is present at the practice or competition to perform
17 the required evaluation, a coach shall not return a student athlete to play
18 who is suspected of sustaining a concussion. The student athlete shall
19 not be allowed to participate in any subsequent practice or athletic
20 competition unless written clearance from a physician is provided.

21 (c) A student athlete deemed to be concussed shall not return to participate in any
22 athletic practice or competition occurring on the day of the injury. The injured
23 student athlete shall not be allowed to participate in any subsequent practice
24 or athletic competition unless written clearance from a physician is provided.

25 (4) The state board or its agency shall adopt rules governing interscholastic athletics
26 that encourage each school that participates in interscholastic athletics to provide
27 access to at least one (1) portable automated external defibrillator in a public,

1 readily accessible, well-marked location at each school-sanctioned athletic practice
2 or competition, including any practice or competition held off campus.

3 (5) The state board or its agency shall adopt rules governing interscholastic athletics
4 conducted by local boards of education to require each school that participates in
5 interscholastic athletics to develop a venue-specific emergency action plan to deal
6 with serious injuries and acute medical conditions in which the condition of the
7 patient may deteriorate rapidly. The plan shall:

8 (a) Include a delineation of the roles of staff and emergency personnel, methods
9 of communication, available emergency equipment, and access to and plan for
10 emergency transport;

11 (b) If one is available, identify the location of a portable automated external
12 defibrillator and the procedures for its use during an emergency; and

13 (c) Be in writing, reviewed by the principal of the school, distributed to all
14 appropriate personnel, posted conspicuously at all venues, and reviewed
15 annually and rehearsed by simulation prior to the beginning of each athletic
16 season by all:

17 1. Licensed athletic trainers, first responders, school nurses, athletic
18 directors; and

19 2. Interscholastic coaches and volunteer coaches of each athletic team
20 active during that athletic season.

21 (6) Each school shall submit annual written certification to the state board or its agency
22 of the existence of a venue-specific emergency action plan that the school has
23 reviewed and rehearsed by simulation as required by subsection (5)(c) of this
24 section.

25 (7) Each school shall maintain complete and accurate records of its compliance with
26 this section and shall make the records available for review by the state board or its
27 agency upon request.