



S.B. 1164

RE: S.B. 1164

SUBJECT: Sports-related injuries

Senate Bill 1164 becomes effective November 1, 2016. This bill makes changes to the requirements for addressing athletes exhibiting signs of a concussion and adds new requirements for game and team officials.

- Section 1(A): Defines “athlete” to mean a secondary-school-age individual who is participating in either a team- or individual-based sport, either outside or within school, and is either competitive or in an organized practice.
 - Defines “health care provider” to mean an individual who is registered, certified, licensed or otherwise recognized by the state to provide medical or psychological treatment and who is trained and experienced in the evaluation, management and care of concussions.
- Section 1(B): Directs the State Department of Health to create a concussion management section on its website to provide guidelines for each school board and youth sports organization to develop their own policies and procedures surrounding concussion/head injury information sheets, “Return to Learn” guidelines, “Graduated Stepwise Return to Athletic Participation” guidelines and links to free online training.
- Section 1(C): Directs each district board of education and youth sports organization/association to develop policies and procedures regarding the items of Section 1(B) to inform and educate their coaches, game officials, team officials, athletes and parents/guardians of the nature of risk of concussion and head injury.
 - Eliminates the requirement that a concussion/head injury information sheet be completed and returned by the athlete and parent/guardian prior to participation. Instead requires annually, information regarding concussion and head injuries to be disseminated to the athlete and his or her parent/guardian and acknowledgement and understanding of the information to be completed by the athlete and their parent/guardian.
 - Such acknowledgement and understanding is to be maintained by the responsible school or youth sports organization prior to the athlete’s participation in practice or competition.

- Requires game officials and team officials to undergo concussion training each year provided by the CDC, the NFHS or a comparable program or resource. A record of completion of the training course must be readily available upon request.
- Requires any game or team official who becomes aware or suspects an athlete is exhibiting signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion or head injury to remove the athlete from practice or competition.
- Once an athlete is removed, the athlete is not permitted to return to the practice or competition from which they were removed or any other practice or competition on the same day unless deemed eligible by a health care provider.
- Provides that a health care provider, game official or team official, whether volunteer or employee, is not liable for civil damages for injury, death or loss to a person or property allegedly arising from any act or omission in providing services or performing duties unless the acts or omissions constitute gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.
- Section 1(D): Requires respective governing boards (school district board or youth sports organization) to establish minimum penalties for violations by game and team officials for not completing the required training and for not removing an athlete from practice or competition as described above. Penalties are as follows:
 - First violation – additional concussion recognition and management education as predetermined by the governing board.
 - Second violation – suspension from the sport until appearance before the governing board.
 - Monetary fines may not be considered as a penalty.
- Section 1(E): Directs the Department of Health to promulgate rules for implementation.

Should you have any questions related to this bill, please contact Ms. Sherry Fisher, Director of Health and Physical Education, at (405) 522-4499 or Ms. Carolyn Thompson, Chief of Government Affairs, at (405) 522-3520.

Amendment to: 70 O.S. 24-155