

NEW CONCUSSION LAW REQUIREMENTS

June 15, 2009

Dear Members:

HB 1824, otherwise known as the Zachery Lystedt Law, was signed into law on May 14, 2009. It requires, as of July 26, 2009, that additional steps be taken regarding concussions in school athletic programs and non-profit athletic groups using school district facilities. WIAA is charged with the responsibility of developing those guidelines, which will be made available in a variety of formats including WIAA website links.

WSRMP, in an effort to avoid any conflicting language or messages, has concluded that it should not publish guiding documents until WIAA finalizes its guidelines. WSRMP will make the final guidance documents available to our Members as soon as the materials and formats are finalized by WIAA.

In the development of the training program, WIAA has retained the services of medical experts from WIAA in conjunction with Harborview Medical Center, Seattle Childrens Hospital and the University of Washington Hospital. That information is expected to be released by the third week of July at the latest.

WSRMP is working closely with WIAA so as to keep our Membership up to date on these requirements. While the bill requirements are not a drastic departure from the practices already recommended by WSRMP, there are training and documentation requirements which school districts adhere to. This pertains to non-profits using district facilities as well as school teams. As of July 26, 2009, all school coaches, players and their parents/guardians must meet these minimum requirements:

1. All school coaches will have to take training on the nature and risk of concussions and head injury including continuing to play after a concussion or head injury.
2. On a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet shall be signed and returned by the youth athlete and athletes parents/guardian prior to the youth athletes initiating practice or competition.
3. All athletes suspected of suffering a concussion or brain injury will be removed from practice or competition and not returned to play until cleared in writing by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions (Medical Doctors, Doctor of Osteopathy, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Physicians Assistants and **Certified** Athletic Trainers).
4. All non-profit youth organizations using school facilities shall:
 - a. Provide the school with written proof of insurance covering their youth athletes with limits required by the law (this was required well before the Zackery Lystedt Law) &
 - b. All coaches, players and parents of youth teams shall have similar training as outlined for school coaches, players and parents prior to the start of any practice &
 - c. The non-profit youth groups shall submit a statement of compliance with the insurance coverage and required head injury trainings prior to receiving access to school facilities.