

CHAPTER 105

AN ACT concerning student head injuries and amending P.L.2010, c.94.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. Section 2 of P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.2) is amended to read as follows:

C.18A:40-41.2 Athletic head injury safety training program.

2. a. The Department of Education shall work to develop and implement, by the 2011-2012 school year, an athletic head injury safety training program. The program shall be completed by a school physician, a person who coaches a public school district or nonpublic school interscholastic sport, intramural sport, or cheerleading program, and an athletic trainer involved in a public or nonpublic school interscholastic sports program, intramural sports program, or cheerleading program. The safety training program shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

(1) the recognition of the symptoms of head and neck injuries, concussions, and injuries related to second-impact syndrome; and

(2) the appropriate amount of time to delay the return to competition or practice of a student-athlete or cheerleader who has sustained a concussion or other head injury.

b. The department shall update the safety training program as necessary to ensure that it reflects the most current information available on the nature, risk, and treatment of sports-related concussions and other head injuries.

c. The department shall develop an educational fact sheet that provides information about sports-related concussions and other head injuries. A school district or a nonpublic school that participates in an interscholastic sports program, intramural sports program, or cheerleading program shall distribute the educational fact sheet annually to the parents or guardians of student-athletes and cheerleaders and shall obtain a signed acknowledgment of the receipt of the fact sheet by the student-athlete or cheerleader and his parent or guardian.

d. As used in P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.1 et seq.), "student-athlete" means any student enrolled in a public or nonpublic school in this State who is a participant in an interscholastic sports program or intramural sports program organized by the school.

2. Section 4 of P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.4) is amended to read as follows:

C.18A:40-41.4 Removal of student-athlete from competition, practice; return.

4. A student who participates in an interscholastic sports program, intramural sports program, or cheerleading program and who sustains or is suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury while engaged in a competition or practice shall be immediately removed from the competition or practice. A student-athlete or cheerleader who is removed from competition or practice shall not participate in further sports or cheerleading activity until he is evaluated by a physician or other licensed healthcare provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions, and receives written clearance from a physician trained in the evaluation and management of concussions to return to competition or practice.

3. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after the date of enactment.

Approved July 13, 2017.