

Summary- HB 1824 “Zachery Lystedt Law”

On May 14, 2009, Governor Gregoire signed into law HB 1824, the Zachery Lystedt Law, directing the education of coaches, players, and parents on the recognition and management of concussions as well as establishing return to play protocol for all youth athletes suspected of or having a concussion or brain injury. We see this legislation as a great tool for managing and preventing injuries to student athletes, and dramatically lowering the risk of a catastrophic injury claim.

As of July 26, 2009, the implementation date of the legislation, the following will apply to all school coaches, players, and their parents/guardians.

1. All school coaches will have to take a training course on the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries including continuing to play after a concussion or head injury.
2. Each school year prior to initiating any turnouts or competition, *all* school athletes and their parents/guardians must have received training on concussions and head injuries and provide the school with a signed statement indicating they have taken this training.
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.
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), and
 - b. All coaches, players and parents of youth teams shall have similar training as outlined for school coaches prior to the start of any practice, and
 - c. The non-profit youth groups *shall* indicate in writing their compliance with the insurance coverage and required head injury training prior to receiving access to school facilities.

Currently the training materials are being developed by expert doctors at Harborview Medical Center, Seattle Children's Hospital, and the University of Washington Hospital in conjunction with WIAA (Washington Interscholastic Activities Association)