

## Concussion Protocol

The links below can be used to complete the required coaches' concussion training through NFHS (preferred) or CDC:

- NFHS: <http://www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=38000>
- CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>

In order to protect young athletes, the State of Ohio has passed a concussion law, commonly called the "Return to Play" law. Therefore, all Ohio Tournaments are responsible to monitor and track compliance with the concussion training requirements of the Return to Play law. See O.R.C. 3707.5119(C)(1). Tournaments are required to collect and maintain certificates of compliance from the coaches. ALL coaches MUST complete the Concussion Training Course from either NFHS (preferred) or CDC. Coaches must submit a copy of the completed certificate to the tournament at either Registration or through pre-registration. They are also required per Ohio law, to have distributed a copy of the Parent Concussion Information Sheet to the parents of all the players. **If these items are not satisfied, those coaches will NOT be able to coach at this event.**

Only staff that has been certified is allowed on the player sidelines, and each coach will need to show the certificates prior to the game start. (Either certification is accepted – you do not need both).

**\*\*All coaches, whether from Ohio, outside of Ohio, or outside of the USA, MUST complete the training\*\***

Upon completion of the above concussion training, EACH coach must:

1. Submit a copy of their individual certificate to the tournament and
2. Submit a certificate copy with their registration materials

3. A separate copy of the certificate(s) need to be with your player cards and brought to each game.

\*\*All parents must receive the Parent Concussion Information Sheet as either (a) an attachment on an email or (b) physically handed to them. Form can be found and downloaded here.

### **Removal from Play:**

Ohio's Return to Play law features three key rules that its leagues, coaches, referees, officials, and athletes and their families must abide by:

- **Rule One:** Coaches, referees, or officials must remove from play an athlete exhibiting the signs and symptoms of a concussion during practice or a game. (See O.R.C. 3707.511(D)(1)).
- **Rule Two:** The athlete cannot return to play on the same day that he or she is removed after exhibiting symptoms of a concussion. (See O.R.C. 3707.511(E)(1)).
- **Rule Three:** The athlete is not permitted to return to play until he or she has been assessed by a physician or licensed health care provider approved by the youth sports organization and received **written** clearance. (See O.R.C. 3707.511(E)(1)). Leagues must be able to produce evidence of compliance with this obligation, which may require the league to retain the written clearance form and/or otherwise demonstrate that the league verified that the athlete was cleared to return to play.