

Members of the IATA -



There is a bill that will soon be introduced to the Idaho Legislature regarding youth sports and concussion. The driving force behind this bill is an Idaho group working closely with the NFL and its team of legislative and concussion experts. If passed as is, the new law would require:

1. The IHSAA and the SBOE provide access to concussion guidelines and information on their websites as resources for coaches and sport leaders, parents and athletes. This information must be consistent with the standards set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("Heads Up on Concussion").
2. Athletes and parents/guardians would be required to review the guidelines and information and provide signed confirmation that they have reviewed the signs and symptoms of a concussion and the risks associated with continuing to play after concussion prior to being allowed to participate in an organized practice or game. Athletic trainers affiliated with schools would also be required to show proof of such awareness (same checklist as others).
3. During a game, if an athlete is suspected to have sustained a concussion by a qualified health care professional or coach (18 y/o or older) or game official, the athlete is to be removed from play. A coach from an opposing team cannot remove an athlete.
4. An athlete may be returned to play the same game day ONLY if the athlete is evaluated and authorized to return by a qualified health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.
5. During a practice, if an athlete is suspected to have sustained a concussion by a qualified health care professional or coach (18 y/o or older), the athlete is to be removed from play. The athlete cannot resume play until he/she received an evaluation and authorization to return to play from a qualified health care professional.
6. In no event is a parent, guardian or relative of the student athlete removed from play for concussion allowed to return that athlete to play following concussion. This includes if that parent, guardian or relative is a qualified health care professional.
7. "Qualified health care professional" is identified as a licensed physician or physician assistant, an advanced nurse practitioner, or a licensed athletic trainer.

The bill applies to all sports programs that involve kids 18 and under, not just school-sponsored programs.

Your IATA Board of Directors has voted unanimously to SUPPORT the legislation, as written. Obviously, athletic trainers are named in the bill and I personally feel it is a very positive step for athletic trainers to be recognized in this state as appropriately qualified health care providers when it comes to concussion. It also brings Idaho much closer to being "in line" with national recommendations.

I will continue to keep you updated as I receive information. We anticipate the bill's introduction soon. Once it is introduced and (hopefully) moves to the House floor, I will let you know so that you can contact your legislators and express your opinions. If you have any questions regarding this legislation please feel free to contact me!

You may wish to click on the KTVB link below.

<http://www.ktvb.com/news/politics/Idaho-considers-changes-to-state-concussion-law-139297708.html>

Brent M. Faure; MS; ATC
IATA President

...To clarify, the bill was introduced in a print hearing today. That means the bill can officially be "written" and made public. Now the written bill will be assigned to committee (State Affairs) and will be formally introduced at a later date (expected to be within the next week).

Please consider voicing your support of the bill to your House Representative.

2/16/2012