

Pennsylvania’s Concussion Legislation, which provides better monitoring of concussions in Pennsylvania’s interscholastic athletes, was signed into law by Gov. Tom Corbett on Nov. 9, 2011, and took effect July 1, 2012. The Pennsylvania concussion law applies to interscholastic athletics, school-sponsored cheerleading and school-based club sports. Youth athletic activities not addressed by this act are encouraged to follow the guidance in the act. This might include Little League, soccer associations, etc. that are not associated with public schools. The law requires the following:

Students with concussion symptoms must be removed from play—A student who exhibits signs or symptoms of a concussion or traumatic brain injury while participating in an athletic activity, must be removed by the coach from participation at that time. This decision can be made by a game official, coach from the student’s team, certified athletic trainer, licensed physician, licensed physical therapist, or other official designated by the student’s school.

Students must be cleared to return to play—The coach is not permitted to return a student to participation until he or she is evaluated and cleared for return **in writing** by an appropriate medical professional. The legislation defines an “appropriate medical professional” as:

- a licensed physician who is trained in the evaluation and management of concussions,
- a licensed certified health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and designated by such licensed physician, or
- a licensed psychologist neuropsychologically trained in the evaluation and management of concussions or who has postdoctoral training in neuropsychology and specific training in the evaluation and management of concussions.

Professional training

Once each school year, a coach shall complete the concussion management certification training course offered by the CDC, the National Federation of State High School Associations or another provider approved by the PA Department of Health. All coaches must complete the training course before coaching.

Where can I find the law?

Please visit the Pennsylvania General Assembly website for a copy of [Senate Bill 200](#).

The above overview was compiled with information from Pennsylvania Medical Society and The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

<http://www.pamedsoc.org/MainMenuCategories/Laws-Politics/Analysis/Laws-Analysis/Concussion-overview.html>

<http://www.chop.edu/health-resources/youth-sports-concussion-laws-pa-nj#.VM T-E1ozIU>