

All Rhode Island District 3 Little League programs are advised to review Rhode Island Title 16-91 School and Youth Programs Concussion Act, sections 16-91-3 and 16-91-4 (attached). We recommend that Leagues include the following statement in their League Bylaws, playing rules and safety manual where appropriate:

***In accordance with Rhode Island Title 16-91 School and Youth Programs Concussion Act, sections 16-91-3(d)(e) and 16-91-4; any youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from competition at that time. A youth athlete, who has been removed from practice or play due to a suspected concussion or head injury, may not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed physician and until the athlete receives written clearance to return to play from a licensed physician.***

League Safety Officers should provide information on how to recognize a concussion to all League personnel. An excellent resource is the CDC site below:

<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/sports/recognize.html>

**\*\*\* Please note 16-91-3(d)(e) will be in effect at all District 3 Tournament games and all State Tournaments hosted by District 3.**

# TITLE 16

## Education

### CHAPTER 16-91

#### School and Youth Programs Concussion Act

##### SECTION 16-91-3

**§ 16-91-3 School district's guidelines to be developed and implemented.** – (a) The department of education and the department of health shall work in concert with the Rhode Island interscholastic league to develop and promulgate guidelines to inform and educate coaches, youth athletes, and their parents and/or guardians of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury including continuing to play after concussion or head injury. A concussion and head injury information sheet shall be signed and returned by the youth athlete and the athlete's parent and/or guardian prior to the youth athlete's return to practice or competition.

(b) School districts are required to use training materials made available by the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention entitled "Heads Up: Concussion in the High School Sports/Concussion in Youth Sports" and any updates or amendments thereto, or training materials substantively and substantially similar thereto. The department of education shall post training materials made available by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention on its website. All coaches, trainers, and volunteers involved in a youth sport or activity covered by this chapter must complete a training course in concussions and traumatic brain injuries. Training may consist of videos, classes, and any other generally accepted mode and medium of providing information.

(c) School districts are encouraged to have all student athletes baseline or "impact" tested prior to the start of every sport season. Parents and/or guardians shall be provided with information as to the risk of concussion and/or traumatic brain injuries prior to the start of every sport season and they shall sign an acknowledgement as to their receipt of such information.

(d) A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from competition at that time.

(e) A youth athlete, who has been removed from play, may not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed physician and until the athlete receives written clearance to return to play from that licensed physician.

(f) All school districts are encouraged to have an athletic trainer or similarly trained person at all recreational and athletic events addressed by this statute.

**History of Section.**

(P.L. 2010, ch. 21, § 1; P.L. 2010, ch. 22, § 1.)

# **TITLE 16**

## **Education**

### **CHAPTER 16-91**

#### **School and Youth Programs Concussion Act**

##### **SECTION 16-91-4**

**§ 16-91-4 All other youth sports program.** – All other youth sports programs not specifically addressed by this statute are encouraged to follow the guidance set forth in this statute for all program participants who are age nineteen (19) and younger.

**History of Section.**

(P.L. 2010, ch. 21, § 1; P.L. 2010, ch. 22, § 1.)