

HB 1865 -- Youth Athletic Injuries

Sponsor: Meiners

This bill requires school boards and directors of youth sports programs to work with the Missouri State High School Activities Association to develop guidelines, information, and forms for coaches, student athletes, and their parents or guardians on the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries, including information on continuing to play after a concussion or head injury. An information sheet must be signed and returned each year by the athletes and their parents or guardians before an athlete can practice or compete.

An athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury must be removed from competition until evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and receives a written clearance from the provider to return to play. A health care provider who volunteers and authorizes a return to play will not be civilly liable for damages resulting from any act or omission in rendering the care except in the case of gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

The use of mouth guards is required for all youth athletes participating in wrestling, basketball, soccer, football, and any other sport deemed necessary by the association.