

As of June 30, 2013, Michigan has a [law](#) in effect regulating sports concussion and return to play. We have received lots of questions and concerns about the law and want to share some key parts (Disclaimer: we're not attorneys and can't be held liable; just doing our best to share information). Please forward this email to others throughout the state. There are many parents, coaches and doctors who are not aware of the law yet. We're also hosting two events in August to discuss this further. [View the flier](#) and encourage others to attend.

### Michigan New Concussion Law Highlights

- Youth (under 18) and Parents/Guardians
  - Education– Must be educated about concussion and [sign this statement](#). The signed statement must be given to the “organizing entity” (i.e. AYSO, Rocket Football, etc.) to keep on file.
  - Play – If the youth is suspected of having a concussion, he/she must be immediately removed from play and cannot return to physical activity until an “appropriate health professional” [signs this form](#).
- Coaches/Employees/Volunteer/Other Adults Involved
  - Education -- Must complete either this [CDC online training for youth sports](#) or this [online course for high school coaches](#). The training takes about 45 minutes. Must ensure youth athletes and parents/guardians have been educated and [signed statement](#).
  - Play – Must immediately remove a youth athlete suspected of having a concussion from play and not return him/her to physical activity until an “appropriate health professional” [signs this form](#).
- Organizing Entity
  - [Use this Compliance Checklist](#)
  - Education -- Must ensure youth athletes and parents/guardians have been educated, [signed statement](#) and statement is kept on file. Must ensure coaches, employees, volunteers and other adults have completed required training ([CDC online training for youth sports](#) or this [online course for high school coaches](#)).
  - Play – Must make sure coaches, et al. immediately remove a youth athlete suspected of having a concussion from play and not return him/her to physical activity until an “appropriate health professional” [signs this form](#). Keep this form on file.
- Important Definitions
  - Appropriate Health Professional = a health professional who is licensed or otherwise authorized to engage in a health profession under article 15 and whose scope of practice within that health profession includes the recognition, treatment, and management of concussions.
  - Athletic Activity = a program or event, including practice and competition, during which youth athletes participate or practice to participate in an organized athletic game or competition against another team, club, entity or individual. Athletic activity includes participation in physical education classes that are part of a school curriculum.
  - Organizing Entity = any of the following:
    - School
    - State or local parks and recreation department or commission or other state or local entity
    - Nonprofit or for-profit entity
    - Public or private entity.
  - School = nonpublic school, public school, or public school academy as those terms are defined in section 5 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.5.

- Youth athlete = an individual who participates in an athletic activity and who is under 18 years of age

More information – Visit the [Michigan Department of Community Health's website](#) and/or attend one of our [upcoming events](#).

Safe Kids, Bronson Orthopedics & Sports Medicine, and others are working with the State of Michigan and healthcare organizations throughout the state to provide feedback about the law and its requirements. If you have a concern or suggestion, let us know and we will do our best to share. We all have the same goals of wanting kids to play safely and we look forward to partnering to figure out how best to do it.