

SENATE FILE NO. SF0038

School athletics safety.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Landen, Coe and Scott and Representative(s) Bonner, Gay and Harvey

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; providing for training of
2 coaches and trainers and education of students, parents and
3 guardians regarding head injury and concussion resulting
4 from athletic activities; granting rulemaking authority;
5 and providing for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-4-701 through 21-4-703 are created
10 to read:

11

12

ARTICLE 7

13

SCHOOL ATHLETICS SAFETY

14

15 **21-4-701. School athletics safety; short title.**

16

1 This article shall be known and may be cited as the "School
2 Athletics Safety Act."

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4 **21-4-702. Definitions.**

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6 (a) As used in the article:

7

8 (i) "Academic year" means as defined in W.S.
9 21-16-1301(a)(ii);

10

11 (ii) "Athletic coach or trainer" means any paid
12 or volunteer individual whose responsibilities include
13 coaching, athletic training or advising a school athletic
14 team or club;

15

16 (iii) "Head injury" means a trauma that leads to
17 an injury to the scalp, skull or brain;

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19 (iv) "School athletic event" means athletic
20 activities sanctioned by the Wyoming high school activities
21 association and school sponsored athletic activities in
22 middle or junior high school which directly correspond to
23 those high school activities sanctioned by the Wyoming high
24 school activities association;

1

2 (v) "Student athlete" means a junior high school
3 or senior high school student who engages in, is eligible
4 to engage in or seeks to engage in a school athletic event.

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6 **21-4-703. Safety of student athletes; prohibition on**
7 **participation; training; rules; consent to participate.**

8

9 (a) An athletic coach or trainer shall not allow a
10 student athlete to participate in a school athletic event
11 on the same day that the student athlete meets one (1) or
12 both of the following criteria:

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14 (i) Exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors
15 consistent with a concussion or other head injury after a
16 coach or trainer, a school official or a student athlete
17 reports, observes or suspects that the student athlete
18 exhibiting these signs, symptoms or behaviors has sustained
19 a concussion or other head injury; or

20

21 (ii) Has been diagnosed with a concussion or
22 other head injury.

23

1 (b) An athletic coach or trainer may allow a student
2 athlete who has been prohibited from participating in a
3 school athletic event pursuant to subsection (a) of this
4 section to participate in a school athletic event no sooner
5 than the day after the student athlete has received a blow
6 to the head or body and only after the student athlete:

7

8 (i) No longer exhibits any sign, symptom or
9 behavior consistent with a concussion or other head injury;
10 and

11

12 (ii) Receives a medical release from a licensed
13 health care professional.

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15 (c) Each school district shall ensure that each
16 athletic coach or trainer participating in school athletic
17 activities in the school district receives training
18 provided pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

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20 (d) The state board of education shall consult with
21 school districts and promulgate rules to establish:

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23 (i) Protocols and content consistent with
24 current medical knowledge and the guidelines of a

1 nationally recognized high school athletics organization
2 such as the national federation of high school associations
3 for training each athletic coach or trainer participating
4 in school athletic events to:

5

6 (A) Understand the nature and risk of
7 concussion and other head injuries associated with athletic
8 activity; and

9

10 (B) Recognize signs, symptoms or behaviors
11 consistent with a concussion or other head injury when a
12 coach or trainer suspects or observes that a student
13 athlete has received a blow to the head or body.

14

15 (ii) The nature and content of concussion and
16 other head injury information forms and educational
17 materials for, and the means of providing these forms and
18 materials to, athletic coaches or trainers, student
19 athletes and student athletes' parents or guardians
20 regarding the nature and risk of concussion and other head
21 injuries resulting from athletic activity, including the
22 risk of continuing or returning to athletic activity after
23 a concussion or other head injury.

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1 (e) At the beginning of each academic year, a school
2 district shall provide a concussion and other head injury
3 information form created pursuant to subsection (d) of this
4 section to a student athlete and the student athlete's
5 parent or guardian. The school district shall receive
6 signatures on the concussion and other head injury
7 information form from the student athlete and the student
8 athlete's parent or guardian before permitting the student
9 athlete to begin or continue participating in school
10 athletic events for that academic year.

11

12 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2011.

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(END)