

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 588

Introduced by Assembly Member Fox

February 20, 2013

An act to amend Section 49475 of the Education Code, relating to school athletics.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 588, as introduced, Fox. School athletics: concussions.

Existing law requires a school district, if it offers an athletic program, to immediately remove an athlete from an athletic activity for the remainder of the day if the athlete is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury and prohibits the athlete from returning to the activity until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider, trained in the management of concussions, and acting within the scope of his or her practice and the athlete receives written clearance from the licensed health care provider to return to the activity. Existing law also requires, on a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet to be signed and returned by the athlete and athlete's parent or guardian before the athlete's initiating practice or competition.

This bill would apply these provisions to athletes attending private schools and would require the information sheet to include, at a minimum, information regarding concussions and their symptoms. The bill would authorize the information to be available in a digital format, including, but not limited to, e-mail or an Internet Web site.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 49475 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:
3 49475. (a) If a school district *or private school* elects to offer
4 an athletic program, the school district *or private school* shall
5 comply with both of the following:
6 (1) An athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or
7 head injury in an athletic activity shall be immediately removed
8 from the activity for the remainder of the day, and shall not be
9 permitted to return to the activity until he or she is evaluated by a
10 licensed health care provider, trained in the management of
11 concussions, acting within the scope of his or her practice. The
12 athlete shall not be permitted to return to the activity until he or
13 she receives written clearance to return to the activity from that
14 licensed health care provider.
15 (2) On a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information
16 sheet shall be signed and returned by the athlete and the athlete's
17 parent or guardian before the athlete's initiating practice or
18 competition. *The information sheet shall include, at a minimum,*
19 *information regarding concussions and their symptoms. The*
20 *information may also be available in a digital format, including,*
21 *but not limited to, e-mail or an Internet Web site.*
22 (b) This section does not apply to an athlete engaging in an
23 athletic activity during the regular schoolday or as part of a physical
24 education course required pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section
25 51220.

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