

## RETURN TO PLAY – OHIO’S YOUTH CONCUSSION LAW

As of April 26, 2013, Ohio’s Return-to-Play law (ORC 3313.539 or ORC 3314.03) requires that Ohio youth athletes who are suspected of sustaining a concussion, **MUST** be removed from practice or play. Ohio laws prohibit a child to return to play (practice or competition) on the same day that he/she is removed on suspicion of having sustained a concussion. He/she may return the following day if cleared **in writing** by a physician (MD or DO) or other authorized healthcare provider that they did not sustain a concussion. For youth sports organizations there is no specific form that must be filled out by a healthcare provider authorizing an athlete to return to play; however, the Ohio Department of Health has made one available (see below link). The law only requires that the athlete must present evidence in writing by a physical (MD or DO) or and Diplomates in either Chiropractic Neurology or Chiropractic Sports Medicine and Certified Chiropractic Sports Physicians who are listed in the American Chiropractic Board of Sports Physicians (ACBSP) Concussion Registry, that they have been cleared to return.

[Return to Play - Medical Clearance Form](#)

### INFORMATION REQUIRED REGARDING PARENTS:

Starting on April 26th, 2013, Ohio Law (ORC 3707.511) requires a youth sports organization to provide a Concussion Information Sheet to the parent or guardian of an individual who wishes to practice for or complete in an athletic activity organized by the organization. This information sheet can also be found at <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/child-injury-prevention/media/concussion-information-sheet-youth-sports-organizations> . Parents and athletes are required to receive a concussion information sheet annually for each sport. This form is linked below (Concussion Information Sheet for Youth Sports Organizations).

[Return-to-Play - What Parents Need to Know-Youth Sports Organizations](#)

[Return to Play - Concussion Information for Youth Sports Organizations Sheet](#)

### INFORMATION REQUIRED REGARDING COACHES:

Individuals who wish to coach or referee in a youth sports organization will be required to successfully complete, **every three years**, a free online training program in recognizing the symptoms of concussions and head injuries provided by the Ohio Department of Health if they do not hold a Pupil Activity Permit. Coaches who already have a current PAP will be required to present evidence that they have successfully completed a training program in recognizing the symptoms of concussions and head injuries that is linked on the Department of Health's web site or a training program authorized and required by an organization that regulates interscholastic conferences or events in order to renew their permit. The current, free online trainings that have been approved by ODH to meet the training requirement for coaches and referees are listed on the ODH Website, under Online Concussions Management Training (see link below). PLEASE NOTE: All 3 courses offer a “certificate of completion” upon successful passage. The courses are offered through The National Federation of State High School Association; the National Alliance for Youth Sports and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. **THE CONCUSSION MODULE COMPLETED THROUGH SAFE SPORT DOES NOT MEET THE CONCUSSION REQUIREMENT!!!!**

[Return to Play What Coaches and Referees Need to Know-Youth Sports Organizations](#)

[Approved Free Online Concussion Courses](#)

### **Ohio Travel Soccer League Compliance:**

In order to verify that each Ohio Travel Soccer League community has attained compliance with both coaching and parent requirements regarding Return to Play, a member representative from each community (president, representative or alternate representative) MUST go to [www.OHTSL.com](http://www.OHTSL.com) and click on LEAGUE, then COMMUNITY WAIVERS and then your community. You will then see *Concussion Legislation Waiver*. Click on VIEW, read the documents and then click the box that states, "I accept and provide my electronic signature agreeing to the conditions of this waiver for my community." Then click SUBMIT. The waiver addresses the following three items:

1. That each parent, guardian or other person having care or charge of an individual participating in the Ohio Travel Soccer League has received the Ohio Department of Health Concussion Information Sheet.
2. That each community participating in the Ohio Travel Soccer League has on file a valid concussion certificate for each coach that will be on the sidelines at any Ohio Travel Soccer League game.
3. That each community has made coaches and parents aware that athletes who are suspected of sustaining a concussion MUST be removed from practice or play; that they are prohibited from returning to play (game or practice) on the same day the athlete is removed on suspicion of having sustained and concussion AND that the athlete may return the following day if cleared IN WRITING by a physician (MD or DO) or other authorized healthcare provider that they did not sustain a concussion.

[Ohio's Return to Play Law-FAQs](#)