SYNOPSIS

Provides that student-athlete who sustains concussion must return to regular school activities prior to return to competition; requires school districts to implement six-step return-to-competition process.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on May 12, 2021, with amendments.
AN ACT concerning the safety of certain student-athletes and
amending and supplementing P.L.2010, c.94.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
of New Jersey:

1. (New section)Within 180 days of the effective date of
P.L., c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
the Department of Education shall revise the athletic head injury
safety training program established pursuant to section 2 of
P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.2) to include information on the
graduated, "five-step" six-step "Return to Play Progression"
recommendations developed by the Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention. The department shall revise the athletic head injury
safety program established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2010, c.94
(C.18A:40-41.2) whenever the Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention changes or otherwise updates the “Return to Play
Progression” recommendations.

2. (New section)Within 180 days of the effective date of
P.L., c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
In the 2021-2022 school year, a school district shall revise its
written policy concerning the prevention and treatment of sports-
related concussions and other head injuries among student-athletes
and cheerleaders established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2010, c.94
(C.18A:40-41.3) to include the graduated, "five-step" six-step "Return to Play Progression” recommendations developed by the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A school district shall
revise its written policy established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2010,
c.94 (C.18A:40-41.3) whenever the Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention changes or otherwise updates the “Return to Play
Progression” recommendations.

3. Section 4 of P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.4) is amended to
read as follows:

4. A student who participates in an interscholastic sports
program, intramural sports program, or cheerleading program and
who sustains or is suspected of having sustained a concussion or
other head injury while engaged in a competition or practice shall
be immediately removed from the competition or practice. A
student-athlete or cheerleader who is removed from competition or
practice shall not participate in further sports or cheerleading
activity until:

a. the student-athlete or cheerleader is evaluated by a

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
Senate SED committee amendments adopted January 14, 2021.
Assembly AED committee amendments adopted May 12, 2021.
physician or other licensed healthcare provider trained in the
evaluation and management of concussions, and receives written
clearance from a physician trained in the evaluation and
management of concussions to return to competition or practice; and
b. the student-athlete or cheerleader returns to regular
school activities and is no longer experiencing symptoms of the
injury when conducting those activities.
   The return of a student-athlete or cheerleader to competition or
   practice shall be in accordance with the graduated, five-step
   “Return to Play Progression” recommendations and any
   subsequent changes or other updates to those recommendations as
developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
(cf: P.L.2017, c.105, s.2)
4. This act shall take effect immediately.