

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 222, *approved September 24, 2021*
Senate, No. 225 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the safety of certain student-athletes and
2 amending and supplementing P.L.2010, c.94.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. (New section) Within 180 days of the effective date of
8 P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
9 the Department of Education shall revise the athletic head injury
10 safety training program established pursuant to section 2 of
11 P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.2) to include information on the
12 graduated, ¹**["five-step"] six-step**¹ "Return to Play Progression"
13 recommendations developed by the Centers for Disease Control and
14 Prevention. ²The department shall revise the athletic head injury
15 safety program established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2010, c.94
16 (C.18A:40-41.2) whenever the Centers for Disease Control and
17 Prevention changes or otherwise updates the "Return to Play
18 Progression" recommendations.²

19
20 2. (New section) ¹**["Within 180 days of the effective date of**
21 **P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)"]**
22 In the 2021-2022 school year¹, a school district shall revise its
23 written policy concerning the prevention and treatment of sports-
24 related concussions and other head injuries among student-athletes
25 and cheerleaders established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2010, c.94
26 (C.18A:40-41.3) to include the graduated, ¹**["five-step"] six-step**¹
27 "Return to Play Progression" recommendations developed by the
28 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. ²A school district shall
29 revise its written policy established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2010,
30 c.94 (C.18A:40-41.3) whenever the Centers for Disease Control and
31 Prevention changes or otherwise updates the "Return to Play
32 Progression" recommendations.²

33
34 3. Section 4 of P.L.2010, c.94 (C.18A:40-41.4) is amended to
35 read as follows:

36 4. A student who participates in an interscholastic sports
37 program, intramural sports program, or cheerleading program and
38 who sustains or is suspected of having sustained a concussion or

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:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted January 14, 2021.

²Assembly AED committee amendments adopted May 12, 2021.

1 other head injury while engaged in a competition or practice shall
2 be immediately removed from the competition or practice. A
3 student-athlete or cheerleader who is removed from competition or
4 practice shall not participate in further sports or cheerleading
5 activity until:

6 a. ²~~he~~ the student-athlete or cheerleader² is evaluated by a
7 physician or other licensed healthcare provider trained in the
8 evaluation and management of concussions, and receives written
9 clearance from a physician trained in the evaluation and
10 management of concussions to return to competition or practice;
11 and

12 b. ²~~he~~ the student-athlete or cheerleader² returns to regular
13 school activities and is no longer experiencing symptoms of the
14 injury when conducting those activities.

15 The return of a student-athlete or cheerleader to competition or
16 practice shall be in accordance with the graduated, ¹~~five-step~~ six-
17 step¹ “Return to Play Progression” recommendations ²and any
18 subsequent changes or other updates to those recommendations as²
19 developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

20 (cf: P.L.2017, c.105, s.2)

21
22 4. This act shall take effect immediately.
23
24

25
26
27 Provides that student-athlete who sustains concussion must
28 return to regular school activities prior to return to competition;
29 requires school districts to implement six-step return-to-competition
30 process.