

**\*\*Ohio's return-to-play law goes into effect on April 26th, 2013\*\***

**Ohio's Return-to-Play Law: What Coaches & Referees  
Need to Know – Youth Sports Organizations  
(Non-school sports)**



**Training In Recognizing the Signs and Symptoms of a Concussion**

Starting April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013, individuals are not allowed to serve as a coach or referee for a youth sports organization, whether volunteer or paid, without:

- 1) successfully completing, every three years, an online training program in recognizing the signs and symptoms of concussions and head injuries provided by the Ohio Department of Health

**-OR-**

- 2) holding a Pupil Activity Permit (PAP) from the [Ohio Department of Education](#).

**For those who current hold a Pupil Activity Permit:** Starting April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013, in order to renew their permit (every three years), coaches with a current PAP will be required to present evidence that they have successfully completed:

- 1) a training program in recognizing the symptoms of concussions and head injuries that is linked on the Department of Health's web site ([www.healthyohioprogram.org/concussion](http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/concussion))

**-OR-**

- 2) a training program authorized and required by an organization that regulates interscholastic conferences or events.

**Online Training**

The Ohio Department of Health has approved the following free online trainings for coaches and referees:

**[National Federation of State High School Associations Concussion in Sports - What you Need to Know:](#)**

<http://www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=38000> (This free on-line course is available through the NFHS. You will need to click the "order here" button and complete a brief registration form to take the course. However, you do not need to be a member of NFHS to access this course.) Follow these steps to complete the course:

- 1) Click on the button that says, please login to order. In the window that appears, click Register Now.
- 2) When your registration is complete you may "order" the free concussion course offered along the left hand side of the page. Continue following prompts. Although it may look like you'll be charged for the course, there is no cost.
- 3) Once you've completed "checkout," you'll be able to take the free online course.