

Ohio's Return to Play Law

The OVR implements Ohio Revised Code Section 3707.511, pertaining to concussions and head injuries, in accordance with the following procedures:

Every director of a Juniors club shall annually provide to the parent, guardian, or other person having care or charge of an athlete the Ohio Department of Health Concussion Information Sheet for Youth Sports Organizations.

<https://www.odh.ohio.gov/health/vipp/child/returntoplay/Parents-and-Guardians>

Every coach and official involved in a Juniors program shall annually provide to the OVR evidence they have successfully completed, within the previous 3 years, a training program in recognizing the symptoms of concussion and head injuries. Free training can be accessed at: <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/health/vipp/child/returntoplay/Online-Concussion-Management-Training>.

If an athlete experiences a possible head injury during practice or competition, the athlete SHALL be temporarily removed from that activity by either a coach, a referee, an official, or the event administrator. If, after being temporarily removed, the athlete exhibits signs, symptoms or behavior consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury, the athlete SHALL be permanently removed from the practice or competition by either a coach, a referee, an official, or the event administrator, and the athlete SHALL NOT be permitted to participate in any practice or competition for the remainder of that day.

The safety of the athlete is the TOP PRIORITY! The temporary or permanent removal of an athlete and implementation of concussion protocol can be a single person's decision, however, it is recommended that more than one individual be involved in the decision to permanently remove an athlete.

An athlete permanently removed from practice or competition after exhibiting signs, symptoms or behavior consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury shall not participate in any practice or competition on any subsequent day unless both of the following conditions are satisfied;

- 1) The athlete has been assessed by a physician or approved medical professional; and
- 2) The athlete receives from a medical professional a WRITTEN clearance to return to activity. The written clearance must be provided to the club administrator who shall send a copy to the OVR Commissioners office.

ALL incidents of possible head injury shall be reported by the club administrator to the Commissioner's office.

Brian Hofman
Commissioner
Ohio Valley Region - USA Volleyball

§ 3707.51 Definition of youth sports organization.

- As used in sections 3707.511 and 3707.52 of the Revised Code, "youth sports organization" means a public or nonpublic entity that organizes an athletic activity in which the athletes are not more than nineteen years of age and are required to pay a fee to participate in the athletic activity or whose cost to participate is sponsored by a business or nonprofit organization.

§ 3707.511 Regulations for prevention of concussion and head injuries in youth sports organizations.

- (A) As used in this section:
 - (1) "Licensing agency" has the same meaning as in section 4745.01 of the Revised Code.
 - (2) "Licensed health care professional" means an individual, other than a physician, who is authorized under Title XLVII of the Revised Code to practice a health care profession.
 - (3) "Physician" means a person authorized under Chapter 4731. of the Revised Code to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery.
- (B) A youth sports organization shall provide to the parent, guardian, or other person having care or charge of an individual who wishes to practice for or compete in an athletic activity organized by a youth sports organization the concussion and head injury information sheet required by section 3707.52 of the Revised Code. The organization shall provide the information sheet annually for each sport or other category of athletic activity for or in which the individual practices or competes.
- (C)
 - (1) No individual shall act as a coach or referee for a youth sports organization unless the individual holds a pupil-activity program permit issued under section 3319.303 of the Revised Code for coaching interscholastic athletics or presents evidence that the individual has successfully completed, within the previous three years, a training program in recognizing the symptoms of concussions and head injuries to which the department of health has provided a link on its internet web site under section 3707.52 of the Revised Code.
 - (2) The youth sports organization for which the individual intends to act as a coach or referee shall inform the individual of the requirement described in division (C)(1) of this section.
- (D) If an individual practicing for or competing in an athletic event organized by a youth sports organization exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury while participating in the practice or competition, the individual shall be removed from the practice or competition by one of the following:
 - (1) The individual who is serving as the individual's coach during that practice or competition;
 - (2) An individual who is serving as a referee during that practice or competition;
 - (3) An official of the youth sports organization who is supervising that practice or competition.
- (E)
 - (1) If an individual is removed from practice or competition under division (D) of this section, the coach, referee, or official who removed the individual shall not allow the individual, on the same day the individual is removed, to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach, referee, or official is responsible. Thereafter, the coach, referee, or official shall not allow the student to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or

competition for which the coach, referee, or official is responsible until both of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (a) The individual's condition is assessed by any of the following who has complied with the requirements in division (E)(4) of this section:
 - (i) A physician;
 - (ii) A licensed health care professional the youth sports organization, pursuant to division (E)(2) of this section, authorizes to assess an individual who has been removed from practice or competition under division (D) of this section;
 - (iii) A licensed health care professional who meets the minimum education requirements established by rules adopted under section 3707.521 of the Revised Code by the professional's licensing agency.
- (b) The individual receives written clearance that it is safe for the individual to return to practice or competition from the physician or licensed health care professional who assessed the individual's condition.
- (2) A youth sports organization may authorize a licensed health care professional to make an assessment or grant a clearance for purposes of division (E)(1) of this section only if the professional is acting in accordance with one of the following, as applicable to the professional's authority to practice in this state:
 - (a) In consultation with a physician;
 - (b) Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
 - (c) In collaboration with a physician;
 - (d) Under the supervision of a physician.
- (3) A physician or licensed health care professional who makes an assessment or grants a clearance for purposes of division (E)(1) of this section may be a volunteer.
- (4) Beginning one year after the effective date of this amendment, all physicians and licensed health care professionals who conduct assessments and clearances under division (E)(1) of this section must meet the minimum education requirements established by rules adopted under section 3707.521 of the Revised Code by their respective licensing agencies.
- (F)
 - (1) A youth sports organization or official, employee, or volunteer of a youth sports organization, including a coach or referee, is not liable in damages in a civil action for injury, death, or loss to person or property allegedly arising from providing services or performing duties under this section, unless the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton misconduct.
 - (2) This section does not eliminate, limit, or reduce any other immunity or defense that a public entity, public official, or public employee may be entitled to under Chapter 2744. or any other provision of the Revised Code or under the common law of this state.