



OHIO VALLEY YOUTH BASEBALL

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CONCUSSION POLICY

DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION – APRIL 26, 2013

Implementation of State Law and Ovybl Playing Rules Related to Concussion and Concussed Athletes and Return to Play Protocol

It is important for all individuals involved in a youth sports organization defined in section **Sec. 3707.511 of house bill 143** to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions. Thus it is extremely important that each coach, administrator, contest official and medical support personnel review their responsibilities in protecting players. Further both players and parents have responsibilities in this area as well.

Note: It has always been the ultimate responsibility of the coaching staff, in all sports, to ensure that students are only put into practice or contests if they are physically capable of performing. However, all individuals involved in the conduct of youth sports organizations have responsibilities in this endeavor.

On April 8, 2013, the Ovybl Board of Directors mandates that these regulations become effective on April 26, 2013 for the remainder of the spring sports season and thereafter. This Ovybl regulation incorporates this recent legislation reads:

Any student, while practicing for or competing in a youth sports organization, who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest by either of the following:

- 1) The individual who is serving as the student's coach during that practice or competition.***
- 2) An individual who is serving as an umpire during that practice or competition.***

The Concussion Report form can be found at www.ovybl.com . This form must be completed and submitted to the player's home organization who must forward to ovybl@comcast.net within 24 hours of incident.

Note: If a coach refuses to remove a player from a game after the umpire has determined that a player is showing symptoms of concussion the game will be stopped and the umpire will leave the field. The game is over and the team refusing to remove the player forfeits.

RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

If a student is removed from practice or competition due to a suspected concussion or head injury, the coach or umpire who removes the player shall not permit the player, **ON THE SAME DAY THE PLAYER IS REMOVED**, to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach or umpire is responsible. Thereafter, which means no earlier than the next day, the coach or umpire shall not permit the student to return to practice or competition until both of the following conditions are satisfied:

1) The student's condition is assessed by a physician:

a. A physician, who is a person authorized under Chapter 4731 of the Ohio Revised Code (OCR) to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine or surgery (M.D. or D.O.)

OR

b. A youth sports organization may authorize a licensed health care provider who is not a physician to make an assessment or grant a clearance for purposes of division (E)(1) of this section only if the provider is acting in accordance with one of the following, as applicable to the provider's authority to practice in this state:

1. In consultation with a physician;
2. Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
3. In collaboration with a physician;
4. Under the supervision of a physician.

AND

2) The student receives **written authorization** that it is safe for the student to return to practice or competition from a physician or other licensed health care provider authorized to grant the clearance.

The Ovybl Medical Authorization to Return To Play (RTP) form can be found at www.ovybl.com . (This form must be submitted to your home organization; that will retain a copy for their records and submit a copy to ovybl@comcast.net)

COACHES AND UMPIRES REQUIREMENTS

All coaches, paid and volunteer, must possess a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit. When renewing this permit, the coach will be required to complete an online concussion education course as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Course**. This course is valid for three years and will expire at the time the Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit expires.

PLAYER AND PARENT REQUIREMENTS

Each individual OVYBL 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 an OVYBL organization, the concussion and head injury information sheet required by section 3707.52 of the Revised Code. The OVYBL organization shall, also, provide the information sheet annually to all players who compete. The concussion information sheet is available at www.ovybl.com.

APPROVED ONLINE CONCUSSION EDUCATION COURSE

The following free online training courses have been approved by the Ohio Department of Health for coaches and umpires:

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 online course is available through the NFHS. Click the “order here” button, and complete a brief registration form to take the 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 will be charged for the course, there is no cost.
3. Once you’ve completed “Checkout,” you will be able to take the free online course.
4. When you have completed and passed the course, you have the option of printing a certificate of completion.
5. ***All Coaches and Umpires should select this option to print, retain a copy of the certificate and turn in one copy to the OVYBL.***

PLEASE NOTE: The course offers a “certificate of completion” upon successful passage. The NFHS course allows organizations to search for and track coaches to determine who has completed the course.