

## USA Softball of Sacramento

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To: USA Softball of Sacramento Leagues and Teams

### **Assembly Bill No. 2007, Youth Athletics: Youth Sports Organizations: Concussions or other Head Injuries.**

Prior to January 1, 2017, law required a school district, charter school or private school, that offered an athletic program to immediately remove an athlete from an athletic activity for the remainder of the day if the athlete was suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury, and prohibited the athlete from returning to the athletic activity until the athlete was evaluated by a licensed health care provider, trained in the management of concussions, and acting within the scope of their practice, and the athlete received written clearance from the licensed health care provider to return to the athletic activity. The law also required, on a yearly basis, that a concussion and head injury information sheet be signed and returned by the athlete and the athlete's parent/guardian before the athlete's initiating practice or competition.

On September 23, 2016, The Governor signed into law Assembly Bill 2007, which, on January 1, 2017, applied the above-mentioned provisions to athletes participating in youth sports organizations. The youth organizations are defined to include organizations, businesses, nonprofit entities, or local governmental agencies that sponsor or conduct amateur sports competitions, training, camps, or clubs in which persons 17 years of age and younger participate in any of the 27 designated sports. One of the designated sports is Softball. Therefore, youth softball organizations are now required to notify the parents or guardians of athletes 17 years of age or younger who have been removed from athletic activities due to suspected concussions, as specified in the following pages. The law requires youth softball organizations to offer concussion and head injury education, or related educational materials, or both, to each coach and administrator on a yearly basis, as prescribed in the following pages. The law further requires each coach and administrator to successfully complete the concussion and head injury education at least once annually either online or in person. Additionally, the law requires youth softball organizations to identify procedures for ensuring compliance with the law's requirements for providing concussion and head injury education and a concussion and head injury information sheet. The law further requires youth softball organizations to identify procedures to ensure compliance with the athlete removal provisions and the return-to-play protocol, as specified. This law applies to all persons participating in youth softball, regardless of age. Youth softball organizations may adopt and enforce rules intended to provide a higher standard or safety for athletes than the standard established by this law.

To assist the youth softball leagues and teams affiliated with USA Softball of Sacramento comply with AB 2007, information, materials and online links can be found in the following pages as listed below.

- Youth Sports and Concussions (Assembly Bill 2007)
- Concussion Information Sheet, or
- Parent and Athlete Concussion Policy Statement Sheet
- Graded Concussion Symptom Checklist
- Acute Concussion Notification Form for Parents/Guardians
- Concussion Return-to-Play (RTP) Protocol
- Concussion Certification for Coaches and Administrators
- Physician Letter to League/Team (Concussion)

Please contact our Junior Olympic Commissioner or any other member of our Junior Olympic Staff should you require assistance or more information.

Youth Sports and Concussions (Assembly Bill 2007)

Since 2012, per Assembly Bill 25, all schools with sports programs have been required to immediately remove an athlete from an athletic activity for the remainder of the day if the athlete is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury, and prohibits the athlete from returning to the athletic activity until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider, trained in the management of concussions, and acting within the scope of his or her practice, and the athlete receives written clearance from the licensed health care provider to return to the athletic activity. This law also requires, on a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet to be signed and returned by the athlete and athlete's parent or guardian before the athlete's re-initiating practice or competition.

A new law went into effect on January 1, 2017. Assembly Bill 2007 now applies these same regulations to athletes participating in youth sports organizations. Softball is one of the 27 youth sports now required to:

- **Remove an athlete** who may have a concussion during a practice or game to be removed from the activity for the remainder of the day.
- Any athlete removed for this reason must receive a **written clearance note** from a medical doctor trained in the management of concussion before returning to practice, and after **completion of the Return to Learn and Return to Play Protocols**.
- Before an athlete can start the season and begin practice in a sport, a **concussion information sheet** must be signed and returned to the league by the parent/guardian.
- Provide all **coaches and administrators** with training on **concussions**, and document completion and understanding of this training.

However, AB 2007 has not yet provided specific educational material, tools, information sheets or protocols for youth sports organizations. Until such material is provided, USA Softball of Sacramento used the material currently available by the California Interscholastic Federation to all schools as part of AB 25, which fulfills all areas of this new law, to put together the information contained in the following pages dealing with concussions.

In addition to the information provided as stated above, please visit the links below for a free information available on concussions.

<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/Training/index.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/parents.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/athletes.html>

<http://nfhslearn.com/courses/61064/concussion-in-sports>