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TO: Principals and Athletic Directors of MHSAA Member Junior High/Middle and Senior High Schools
FROM: John E. Roberts, Executive Director
DATE: April 22, 2013 (Updated Sept. 10, 2013)
SUBJECT: Action Under Public Acts 342 and 343 (Concussion Law)

The above laws become effective June 30, 2013, and require all levels of schools and youth sports organizations to educate, train and collect forms for **non-MHSAA** activities including physical education classes, intramural and out-of-season camps or clinics. You may wish to share this information with others in your school district and youth sports groups in your community.

It should be understood that for MHSAA sports, the existing rules meeting completion requirement and concussion removal and return-to-play protocols, first begun in 2010, remain in effect. This includes that each school shall designate the person who shall evaluate suspected concussions. If a student is withheld from competition due to a suspected concussion, he or she may not return at all on that day and only on a subsequent day with the written clearance of **an MD or DO**. This is more stringent than the new law and must be followed for MHSAA competition and practices. Not adhering to this protocol results in ineligibility of the student and forfeiture of contests.

Compliance with other respects of the new concussion law is accomplished through a website of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) michigan.gov/sportsconcussion.

Below is a brief summary of what the new law is requiring youth sports organizations and schools to do for **non-MHSAA sport activities** such as physical education, intramurals and out-of-season or summer camps and clinics:

1. Adults (coaches and teachers) must complete a free online training course. There are two options on the MDCH website, one through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC.gov) and one through the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS.org). These courses are the only options to fulfill the adult training requirement unless attorneys for a school or organizing entity attest that their content has met the criteria of the law and accept liability. Schools should collect and file the certificate of completion for each adult. A school may hold a group meeting, show an approved online course, record and vouch for completion of the tests at the end of the course and then collect individual documentation that the course was completed.
2. Sponsoring organizations must provide educational training materials to students and parents and collect and maintain their signed statement of receipt of that information for the duration of the student's involvement with the organization, or age 18. The MDCH website's educational material is found under "Information for Parents & Athletes." The content of this material may not be altered, but it may be reformatted.

The website also links to an "Acknowledgement Form" (under Popular Documents and Links). This form can be used as the signed statement, or the sponsoring organization may create its own form provided the content is similar. Some schools are including concussion information and signed statements with school registration and handbook materials, at first for all students and in subsequent years for new students.

3. Sponsoring organizations must follow the same concussion protocols for **non-MHSAA** events as is currently done for MHSAA sports when a student is suspected of a concussion. Sit them out, find out and do not allow them to return to practice or competition until cleared in writing. The new law requires sponsoring organizations to maintain a copy of any written clearance until the student is 18 years of age.

This is not intended to be legal advice. Schools should review the website and contact their own attorneys if they so choose. This is a summary to assist schools this spring so they are in compliance for activities beginning this summer and moving into the 2013-14 school year and beyond.