



individualized plan for a student returning to school to help manage cognitive and physical exertion following a concussion. As a student recovers, healthcare providers can help guide the gradual removal of academic adjustments or supports that may be instituted as part of the recovery process.”

Currently, the MPSSAA provides schools the CDC “Heads Up For Schools” guidelines as well as the Appropriate Educational Accommodations document developed by the MPSSAA Medical Advisory Committee. Medical professionals, who specialize in athletic injuries, including concussions, annually review these documents. These documents provide a variety of possible post-concussion effects and appropriately tailored educational accommodations. This document is fluid and continually evolves from the MPSSAA Medical Advisory Committee as medical information becomes available on concussions and traumatic brain injuries.

House Bill 435 does not differentiate the definition of “Youth Sport Programs” from interscholastic athletic programs found in public schools. Requirements of “Youth Sports Program Personnel” differ from local educational agency requirements and may lead to attrition of those who do not have direct and unsupervised access to students based on additional requirements.

COMAR 13A.06.08.04 states, “Each school system shall require a certificate of completion from a coaches’ training course with refresher training every two years as a condition of coaching employment.” Since the beginning of the 2013-14 school year, at every Maryland public school practice or contest, the entire coaching staff has been trained in concussion risk and management. The National Federation of State High School Associations’ “Concussion in Sports” course, which is recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as the official course for high schools, had over 7,100 Maryland coaches take the course to date during the 2021-2022 academic year.

Given these educational and training components currently in place, the MPSSAA believes the programs and policies advised by the MPSSAA Medical Advisory Committee are continually providing both awareness and education for all stakeholders to ensure opportunities for students to participate in high school athletics safely. The regulations found in COMAR 13A.06.08 as well as the additional resources developed and implemented continue to evolve with the changing medical information from concussion research.

The MPSSAA respectfully requests that you consider this information as you deliberate **House Bill 435**. Please contact R. Andrew Warner, at 410-767-0376, or [robert.warner1@maryland.gov](mailto:robert.warner1@maryland.gov), for any additional information.