

Youth Concussion Laws and I-LYA Regattas

Concussion awareness has become a big issue within youth sports. As of April 26, 2013, the new Ohio Return-to-Play law goes into effect. The Michigan law goes into full effect on June 30, 2013.

I-LYA requires compliance with the youth concussion laws in effect in Ohio or any other state where an I-LYA regatta is being hosted. Individual clubs and learn-to-sail programs should consult with their own risk management professionals about how best to comply with the law in their state.

The Ohio website is quite good. Please read carefully as some information is specific to schools. For sailing please refer to the sections referencing Youth Sports Organizations.

In Ohio:

- Ohio clubs should distribute/post the appropriate concussion info sheet: [Youth Sports Concussion Information Sheet \(for Youth Sports Organizations\)](#)
- Coaches and referees must successfully complete a free online training program every three years in recognizing the symptoms of concussions.
- Coaches, referees, and officials must remove an athlete exhibiting signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury from practice or competition.
- No athlete can return to play on the day they are removed.
- To return to play, an athlete must be assessed and cleared for return by a physician or any other licensed health care provider authorized by the youth sports organization.
- Complete information including details on training is available at: <http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/concussion.aspx>

In Michigan:

- The sports concussion legislation requires all coaches, employees, volunteers, and other adults involved with a youth athletic activity to complete a concussion awareness on-line training program.
- The organizing entity must provide educational materials on the signs/symptoms and consequences of concussions to each youth athlete and their parents/guardians and obtain a signed statement acknowledging receipt of the information for the organizing entity to keep on record.
- The law also requires immediate removal of an athlete from physical participation in an athletic activity who is suspected of sustaining a concussion. The student athlete must then receive written clearance from an appropriate health professional before he or she can return to physical activity.
- In formation and requirements for the Michigan law are available at: www.michigan.gov/sportsconcussion

Pennsylvania and Indiana:

- as of 5/1/13 the youth concussion laws in these states apply only to scholastic sports.