



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

JAMES K. HAVEMAN  
DIRECTOR

January 13, 2014

Dear Community Partner,

You are receiving this information as a Michigan partner who can play a critical role in helping to keep Michigan's youth athletes safe from the dangers of sports concussions.

As you may be aware, new laws went into place on June 30, 2013 to provide directives on this important issue. In an effort to help inform our communities and partners on the roles and responsibilities that manifest with this new law, we are providing you with this letter, which you are encouraged to share with other partners as you deem appropriate.

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has developed a website with information and resources to help people who are involved in youth sports, along with parents and young athletes, to comply with the law, and learn more about sports concussions: [www.michigan.gov/sportsconcussion](http://www.michigan.gov/sportsconcussion). This web site offers links to the laws themselves, as well as tools, information pieces, and trainings that are essential to compliance. A checklist is printed on the back of this letter for your convenience, and a link to this checklist may also be found on the MDCH sports concussion web site. There is also a "frequently asked questions" or FAQ link, where answers to the most common questions are posted to help our communities navigate this new law.

We, along with the Brain Injury Association of Michigan appreciate all that you do to help keep Michigan's young athletes active and safe. If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact me at my information below.

Sincerely,

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# Michigan's Sports Concussion Law: Compliance Checklist

Effective June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013

- Learn about the new law and how it affects you and your organization.**  
Please visit [www.michigan.gov/sportsconcussion](http://www.michigan.gov/sportsconcussion).
- Plan how this new law will be implemented in your organization before it sponsors or operates an athletic activity in which youth athletes will participate.**  
Understand what is required and make sure those provisions are implemented.
- Ensure that required training is completed.**  
Coaches, employees, volunteers, and other adults who are involved with a youth athletic activity sponsored by or operated under the auspices of the organizing entity must complete a concussion awareness on-line training program.
- Provide educational materials to youth athletes and parents.**  
The organizing entity is responsible for providing educational materials to each youth athlete who participates in a sponsored athletic activity and their parents/guardians.
- Document and maintain receipt of educational materials by youth athletes and parents.**  
The organizing entity should obtain a signed statement by each youth athlete and parent/guardian that acknowledges receipt of educational materials on concussions and their consequences. Signed statements should be maintained in a permanent file for the duration of the youth athlete's participation in the athletic activity or until the youth athlete is 18 years of age.
- Immediately remove from play any youth athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion.**  
The coach or other adult employed by, volunteering for or acting on behalf of the organizing entity during an athletic event sponsored or operated by that entity shall **immediately remove** an athlete from physical participation who is suspected of sustaining a concussion during the athletic activity.  
  
An athletic activity means a program or event, including practice and competition, during which youth athletes participate or practice to participate in an organized athletic game or competition against another team, club, entity or individual. Athletic activity includes participation in physical education classes that are part of a school curriculum.
- Before returning a youth athlete to play, obtain written clearance from an appropriate health professional.**  
The youth athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion is not allowed to return to any physical activity until they have been evaluated by an appropriate health professional and must receive written clearance from an appropriate health professional authorizing return to physical activity.  
  
The organizing entity shall maintain the Written Clearance to Return to Play Forms in a permanent file for the duration of the participation of the youth athlete in a physical activity or until the youth athlete is over 18 years of age.
- Keep information and resources about the law on hand.**  
Information about the law and resources are available at: [www.michigan.gov/sportsconcussion](http://www.michigan.gov/sportsconcussion).