

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 676, As Amended

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO YOUTH ATHLETES AND CONCUSSIONS; AMENDING CHAPTER 16, TITLE 33,
2 IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1620, IDAHO CODE, TO PRO-
3 VIDE LEGISLATIVE INTENT, TO PROVIDE FOR GUIDELINES, OTHER PERTINENT IN-
4 FORMATION AND FORMS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF GUIDELINES, INFORMATION
5 AND FORMS AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL MAKE
6 AVAILABLE ON ITS WEBSITE SUCH GUIDELINES, INFORMATION AND FORMS.
7

8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

9 SECTION 1. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
10 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
11 ignated as Section 33-1620, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

12 33-1620. LEGISLATIVE INTENT -- YOUTH ATHLETES -- CONCUSSION GUIDE-
13 LINES. The legislature finds that concussions are one of the most commonly
14 reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and
15 recreational activities. The centers for disease control and prevention
16 estimates that as many as three million eight hundred thousand (3,800,000)
17 sports-related and recreation-related concussions occur in the United
18 States each year. A concussion is caused by a blow or motion to the head
19 or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. The risk
20 of catastrophic injuries or death is significant when a concussion or head
21 injury is not properly evaluated and managed.

22 Concussions are a type of brain injury that can range from mild to severe
23 and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Concussions can occur in
24 any organized or unorganized sport or recreational activity and can result
25 from a fall or from players colliding with each other, the ground, or with
26 obstacles. Concussions occur with or without loss of consciousness, but the
27 vast majority occur without loss of consciousness.

28 Continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms of head injury leaves
29 the young athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury and even death.
30 The legislature recognizes that, despite having generally recognized return
31 to play standards for concussion and head injury, some affected youth
32 athletes are prematurely returned to play resulting in actual or potential
33 physical injury or death to youth athletes in the state of Idaho.

34 (1) The state board of education shall collaborate with the Idaho high
35 school activities association to develop guidelines and other pertinent in-
36 formation and forms to inform and educate coaches, both paid and volunteer,
37 youth athletes, and their parents and/or guardians of the nature and risk
38 of concussion and head injury including risks associated with continuing to
39 play after concussion or head injury.

40 (2) The guidelines, information and forms described in subsection (1)
41 of this section shall be developed for and may be used by all organized youth
42 sport organizations or associations that sponsor, promote or otherwise ad-

1 minister youth sport organizations or activities in this state. The state
2 board of education shall make available on its internet website the guide-
3 lines, information and forms provided for in this section.