

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Interscholastic Athletic Organization Act  
5 is amended by adding Section 1.15 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 25/1.15 new)

7 Sec. 1.15. Mandatory online concussion certification.

8 (a) An association or other entity that has, as one of its  
9 purposes, promoting, sponsoring, regulating, or in any manner  
10 providing for interscholastic athletics or any form of athletic  
11 competition among schools and students within this State shall  
12 develop an online certification for high school coaching  
13 personnel and athletic directors in concussion awareness and  
14 reduction of repetitive sub-concussive hits and concussions.  
15 The certification program shall be offered free of charge to  
16 member high schools. The program may be offered to non-member  
17 schools or athletic organizations for a fee determined by the  
18 association.

19 (b) On and after the effective date of this amendatory Act  
20 of the 98th General Assembly, online concussion certification  
21 is mandatory for all high school coaching personnel, including  
22 the head and assistant coaches, and the athletic directors.  
23 Coaching personnel and athletic directors hired before the

1 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 98th General  
2 Assembly shall be certified within one year after the effective  
3 date of this amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly.  
4 Coaching personnel and athletic directors hired on and after  
5 the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 98th General  
6 Assembly must be certified under this Section before the  
7 starting date of their position.

8 (c) The mandatory online certification program content  
9 shall be updated annually, include a video, and focus on, but  
10 not be limited to, the following topics:

11 (1) concussion awareness training that includes  
12 general comments about the subject of concussions,  
13 concussion recognition, best practices for avoiding  
14 concussions, an athlete's removal from a game, and an  
15 athlete's return to play; and

16 (2) repetitive sub-concussive head trauma awareness  
17 training that includes the potential long-term effects of  
18 sub-concussive head trauma and techniques to reduce its  
19 occurrence during practice and competitions.

20 (d) To pass the concussion certification required under  
21 this Section, coaching personnel and athletic directors shall  
22 review the association's online material and demonstrate  
23 proficiency on the test developed by the association. The  
24 certification shall be renewed every 2 years.

25 (e) High school coaching personnel and athletic directors  
26 shall annually require their student athletes to watch the

1 video in the online concussion certification program under  
2 subsection (c) of this Section to increase athlete awareness of  
3 the risk of concussions and sub-concussive hits to the head.

4 (f) High school coaching personnel and athletic directors  
5 shall encourage coaches of youth sports organizations to  
6 consider this certification.

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
8 becoming law.