

NEW COLORADO LAW ON CONCUSSIONS IN YOUTH SPORT ACTIVITIES

During the 2011 Colorado Legislative Session, the Legislature adopted a new law called the “Jake Snakenberg Youth Concussion Act” (the “Act”). Adoption of the Act was in response to increased public awareness of concussions suffered by youth athletes and the need for medical consultation in the event of concussions before an athlete is allowed to return to play. The basic provisions of the Act are as follows:

1. All coaches and trainers involved in the coaching and training of youth athletic teams comprised of children 11 years of age or older are required to complete an annual concussion recognition education course;
2. If a coach suspects that a youth athlete has sustained a concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the head or body in a game, competition, or practice, the coach is required to immediately remove the athlete from the game, competition, or practice;
3. If a youth athlete is removed from play and the signs and symptoms cannot be readily explained by a condition other than concussion, the athlete may not return to play in any supervised team activities involving physical exertion until the parents or legal guardians have been notified and until the athlete is evaluated by a health-care provider and receives written clearance to return to play from the health-care provider.

The Act does not include any exceptions to the above requirements. If a Colorado Ice player in the U-11 through U-18 age groups is suspected of having suffered a possible concussion, they will be removed from play, parents will be notified, and return to play will not be permitted until Colorado Ice has received written clearance from a health-care provider. The Act does not allow parents to make an independent determination, to waive or avoid the

requirement for an evaluation by a health-care provider, or to indicate that there has been verbal clearance to play provided by a health-care provider.

In an effort to utilize the Club's best efforts to assure compliance with the Act, Colorado Ice has adopted a written Policy which will be followed by the Club to implement and enforce the Act. The Policy can be reviewed by this link.