

Minnesota Youth Athletics Concussion Law
(Compliance is required, beginning with the 2012 Season)

During 2011, the State of Minnesota passed a new law; all non-profit organizers/participants of youth athletics must comply (in addition to HS athletic programs). Therefore, all MN American Legion teams must be in compliance with the following provisions, which became law in Minnesota, effective 9/1/11:

1) ALL participating coaches and officials must receive training on concussion symptoms. (Certification is valid for a 3-year period, after which, you must take the training again and obtain a new certificate of completion.)

a. As a youth baseball organization, Legion Baseball is asking umpire associations to submit acknowledgement that they are in compliance with the MN concussion law (e.g., that their umpires are required to receive training.) However, as a coach, you have an obligation to ensure that you only use umpires who have received the required training, per Minnesota law.

b. You, and your rostered assistant coaches, must receive concussion symptom training -- at least once every 3 years. (Because player safety is of the utmost importance, although not required, it is also recommended that others involved with your team, such as Business Managers, scorekeepers, etc. watch the training video as well.)

c. A copy of a each coach's certificate of completion must be included with the roster packet that is submitted to your District Director in June. Coaches who do not turn in a certificate of training, will not be considered eligible to coach Legion Baseball in MN. (Those who have already completed concussion training through the State HS League may submit a copy of that certificate of completion, in lieu of undergoing the following training, if desired.)

d. The CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) worked with youth athletic organizations to develop a **FREE on-line training video** that meets Minnesota state requirements. It is available at the following web site:

http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html

Watching the video will take roughly 20-30 minutes. At the end of the video, there is a short quiz. After passing the quiz, a certificate will appear on-screen (which has a fixed, non-changeable date). Type your name in the applicable blank. You can then print the certificate. The entire process should take no more than 30-40 minutes.

IMPORTANT NOTE: It is highly recommended that you choose the option of saving a copy of the certificate to your computer. If you don't, and you lose your one printed copy, you cannot go back into the training video to produce another certificate, without watching the entire video and taking the quiz again.

2) During games, practices, tryouts, etc., coaches/officials must remove players who exhibit signs of possible concussion (as outlined in the training).

The training also recommends that coaches/officials suggest to parents that injured players be evaluated by a medical professional, if concussion symptoms are exhibited. (That is, the law does not require that you have a medical professional on-site during games to evaluate players for concussions ... it simply states that coaches have an obligation to remove players, if you see evidence of symptoms, or if you are concerned about the force of a hit sustained by a player.) If a player does not see a doctor, and if you (as a coach) still have concerns about a player's health, you have an obligation to again remove the player and/or not let him play -- and to discuss your ongoing concerns with the player's parents.

3) If a player is removed from participation due to symptoms, and a concussion is confirmed, the player cannot resume participation without written consent from a doctor. (It is strongly suggested that you maintain a copy of such a medical release with other player documents.)

4) Information on concussions must be made available/given to parents, athletes, coaches, etc. On the CDC web site, handouts are available for coaches, athletes and parents. It is suggested that you print them and keep copies handy in your game-day bag. (Use of these handouts is referenced in the training video.) The following link to the CDC's handout page will also be made available on the MN Legion Baseball Resources web site.

<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/youth.html>

If you have any questions on the above, please contact your District Director for assistance. It is suggested that you (and your assistant coaches) watch the training video and obtain your certificate as soon as possible -- so that everything is completed, well before tryouts and practices begin!