

Serious Sports Injury Law of 2011 - Louisiana ACT 352

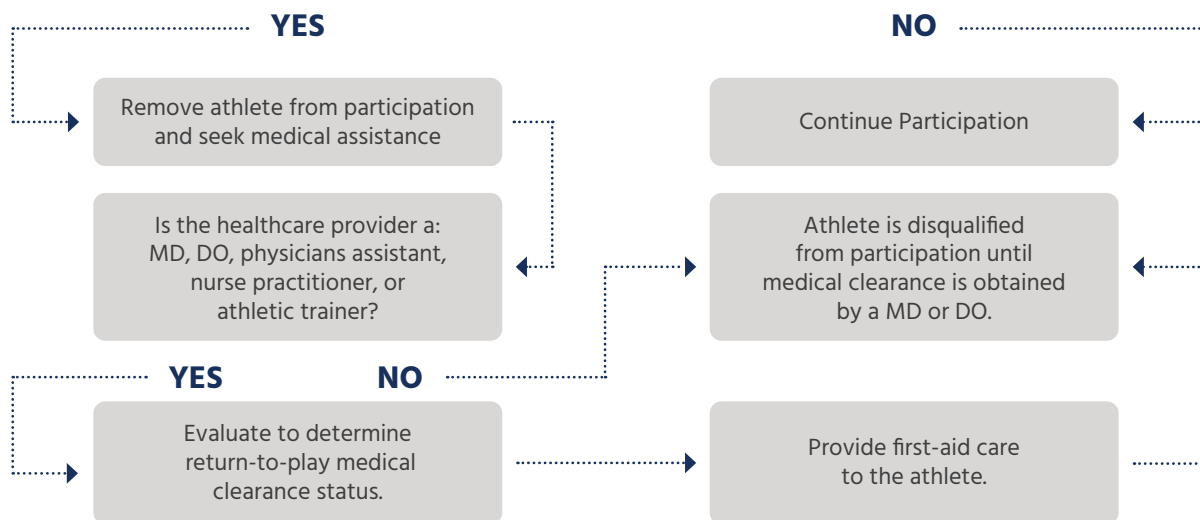
Pursuant to Act 352 of the 2011 Louisiana Legislative Session, before a student is allowed to participate in any school sanctioned athletic activity, the student and parents or guardian of the student shall document they have viewed information provided in written or verifiable electronic form by the school regarding the risks of serious sports injuries.

1. A student-athlete, who reports, or exhibits, any sign or symptom of a possible serious sports injury, defined as any loss of function as a result of a direct or indirect injury, shall immediately be disqualified from continued participation and be removed from practice, training or competition.
 - a. A direct injury refers to an injury which results from participation in the fundamental skills of the sport. This may include, but not limited to, fractures, dislocations, injuries to the eyes, dental, or any other acute episode of musculoskeletal injury.
 - b. An indirect injury refers to an injury caused by a systemic failure (usually cardiac or respiratory in nature) resulting from exertion while participating in an activity, or by a complication which may be secondary to a non-fatal injury. This may include, but not limited to, abnormal/difficulty in breathing, the appearance of dizziness or confusion or any other unusual behavior exhibited by a student-athlete.
2. The student-athlete shall be evaluated for a serious sports injury, as determined by a doctor of medicine/doctor of osteopathic medicine (MD/DO), and appropriate medical treatment rendered in a timely manner.
 - a. If a MD/DO is not immediately available, the injured student-athlete may be triaged by an appropriate mid-level provider duly authorized by a MD/DO.
 - b. If no such caregiver(s) is immediately available, then the designated responsible school personnel shall ensure that medical treatment is rendered in a timely manner.
3. If the student-athlete's injury is not a serious sports injury, then a return-to-play (RTP) clearance may be provided by an on-site MD/DO or an appropriate mid-level provider duly authorized by a MD/DO.
4. A student-athlete with a serious sports injury may only be allowed to return to practice, training, or competition after a RTP clearance is provided by a MD/DO to the athletic trainer or coach. The clearance provided by a MD/DO shall include a step-wise RTP protocol.
5. The game official's role during a contest shall be to ensure the immediate removal of any student-athlete who reports or exhibits any sign or symptom of a serious sports injury from that contest until a RTP clearance has been provided by an on-site MD/DO or an appropriate mid-level provider duly authorized by a MD/DO. [The game official shall always rule on the side of caution, with the health and safety of the athlete being his/her primary and foremost concern.]
6. SSI Glossary
 - a. Appropriate Mid-Level Provider – A health care provider duly authorized by a supervising MD/DO to provide care for sports injuries in accordance with their respective scopes of practice. For the purpose of this injury management program, the following health care providers may function as an appropriate mid-level provider on-site at any school-sponsored or sanctioned athletic activity: physician assistant (PA) licensed to practice in Louisiana; a registered nurse practitioner licensed to practice in Louisiana; an athletic trainer (AT) certified by LSBME to practice in Louisiana.

Serious Sports Injury Law of 2011 - Louisiana ACT 352

- b. Loss of function – Any sign of inability to perform any sport specific activity or movement. This may include, but not limited to, walking/running with a limp or holding/protecting a body part, or any other impaired movement.
- c. Responsible School Personnel – The individual(s) (i.e., head coach, assistant coach, etc.) designated by the respective school with the responsibility for student-athlete safety.
- d. Return-to-Play (RTP) – A term used to describe when a student-athlete, who has followed a step-wise protocol, is released to return to practice or competition.
- e. Step-Wise RTP Protocol – A protocol, approved by a MD/DO, delineating a sequence of progressive activities (which may include strength, stability, agility, etc.) designed to allow the athlete a gradual return to physical activity, and eventually sport practice or competition.
- f. Direct Injury – an injury which results from participation in the fundamental skills of the sport. This may include, but not limited to, fractures, dislocations, injuries to the eyes, dental, or any other acute episode of musculoskeletal injury.
- g. Indirect Injury – an injury caused by a systemic failure (usually cardiac or respiratory in nature) resulting from exertion while participating in an activity, or by a complication which may be secondary to a non-fatal injury. This may include, but not limited to, abnormal/difficulty in breathing, the appearance of dizziness or confusion or any other unusual behavior exhibited by a student-athlete.

Is there “loss of function” due to an injury as reported to, or determined by a Coach, Game Official, or Licensed Health Care Provider?



By its very nature, competitive athletics can put students in situations in which **SERIOUS, CATASTROPHIC**, and perhaps **FATAL** accidents could occur. Students and parents/guardians must assess the risks involved in such participation and make their choice to participate despite those risks. No amount of instruction, precaution, or supervision will totally eliminate all risks of injury. Participation in athletic is inherently dangerous. The obligation of parents/guardians and students in making this choice to participate cannot be overstated.

Serious Sports Injury Law of 2011 - Louisiana ACT 352

By granting permission to your son/daughter to participate in athletic competition through the LHSAA physical form and Ochsner Lafayette General Sports Medicine Emergency Contact Form, a parent or guardian acknowledges that playing or participating in any sport can be a dangerous activity involving many risks of injury. Both Athlete and parent/guardian must understand that the dangers and risks of playing or practicing to play include but are not limited to: Death, complete or partial paralysis, brain damage, serious injury to virtually all internal organs, bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, tendons, and other aspects of the skeletal system and the potential impairment to other aspects of the body, general health, and wellbeing.

Because of the dangers of participating in sports, we (parent/guardian and player) recognize the importance of following instructions regarding playing techniques, training, equipment and other team rules, etc. both in competition and practice and agree to obey such instruction.

If any of the foregoing is not completely understood and you have questions, please contact your school's athletic trainer or athletic director for more information.

ATHLETE'S (PATIENT'S) SIGNATURE

PRINT ATHLETE'S NAME

DATE

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE

PRINT PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME

DATE