

Date of Hearing: March 21, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, AND TOURISM

Sharon Quirk-Silva, Chair

AB 245 (McKinnor) – As Introduced January 17, 2023

**SUBJECT:** High school athletics: California High School Coaching Education and Training Program

**SUMMARY:** Adds rehearsing the appropriate response to the signs and symptoms of concussions, heat illness, and cardiac arrest to the 1998 California High School Coaching Education and Training Program (HSCTP).

Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Adds training in recognizing the signs and symptoms of cardiac arrest and the appropriate response, to the first aid certification high school coaches receive pursuant to the HSCTP.
- 2) Add as a component of the HSCTP that certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid include rehearsal of responses to concussions, heat illness, and cardiac arrest.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Contains the 1998 HSCTP, which is administered by school districts and emphasizes the following components (Education Code 35179.1):
  - a) Development of coaching philosophies consistent with school, school district, and governing board of a school district's goals.
  - b) Sport psychology: emphasizing communication, reinforcement of the efforts of pupils, effective delivery of coaching regarding technique and motivation of the pupil athlete.
  - c) Sport pedagogy: how pupil athletes learn, and how to teach sport skills.
  - d) Sport physiology: principles of training, fitness for sport, development of a training program, nutrition for athletes, and the harmful effects associated with the use of steroids and performance-enhancing dietary supplements by adolescents.
  - e) Sport management: team management, risk management, and working within the context of an entire school program.
  - f) Training: certification in CPR and first aid, including, but not limited to, a basic understanding of the signs and symptoms of concussions and heat illness and the appropriate response to concussions and heat illness. Concussion or heat illness training may be fulfilled through entities offering free, online, or other types of training courses. For purposes of this section, “heat illness” includes heat cramps, heat syncope, heat exhaustion, and exertional heat stroke.

- g) Knowledge of, and adherence to, statewide rules and regulations, as well as school regulations including, but not necessarily limited to, eligibility, gender equity and discrimination.
- h) Sound planning and goal setting.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None. This measure is keyed nonfiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) Author's statement and support. According to the author, "The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) is a nonprofit organization that works in tandem with the state to regulate both private and public high school sports. With over 1,600 membership schools, the CIF requires that all schools establish an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) so athletic departments and coaches receive training on proper ways to administer aid to an athlete experiencing cardiac arrest or a heat related illness during play.

"In the past three years, over 45 high school athletes have died nationwide during play, five of which were California residents. Although the CIF currently requires schools to have an EAP, the CIF does not have the authority to require membership schools practice these action plans, similar to requirements around annual fire or active shooter drills. This rehearsal component is vital to ensuring that California high schools are equipped to respond to athletes experiencing a health emergency in a timely manner, resulting in a higher likelihood of positive health outcomes."

- 2) Coaches training.

- a) Training programs: Currently CIF offers training programs to high school coaches who receive a certificate upon course completion. The completed certificate is transferable between school districts. CIF's mandated coaches training program under the HSCTP currently includes instruction on CPR, First Aid, concussions and heat illness. CIF offers a free online concussion and heat illness training course for coaches where they receive an immediate printed certification upon completion. There is also a free online course for sudden cardiac arrest.

Currently, coaches must complete a CPR/First Aid/Concussion/Heat Illness course and renew that training every two years. Because this bill includes training on cardiac arrest as part of the mandatory training requirement, coaches will be required to receive updated cardiac arrest training every two years as well.

- b) Who is required to pass the Coaching Education class?

CIF Bylaw 22.B. (9) states: "Definition of a coach, paid or unpaid: Any individual that the school/district is required to approve under California Education Code 33190-33192, 45125.01 and 45125.1." Simply stated, the law applies to anyone who is required to be fingerprinted and/or is approved by their local school board/directors to have contact with students. This applies to all CIF member schools, public and private.

- 3) Prior and related legislation.

- a) AB 2800 (Chu), Chapter 21, Statutes of 2018, added requirements to the HSCTP for training on understanding the signs and symptoms of heat illness and the appropriate response to heat illness.
- b) AB 2009 (Maienschein), Chapter 646, Statutes of 2018, added requirements that a school district or charter school that elects to offer any interscholastic athletic program ensure that there is a written emergency action plan in place and acquire at least one automated external defibrillator (AED) for each school for the purpose of emergency care in the event of cardiac arrest and other related medical emergencies. The bill also clarified that existing law providing conditional liability protections to those acquiring or using these AEDs would apply.
- c) AB 141 (Hayashi), Chapter 173, Statutes of 2012, added requirements to the HSCTP for training on understanding the signs and symptoms of concussions and the appropriate response to concussions.
- d) AB 1646 (Hayashi) of 2010, would have required training for coaches to be able to identify symptoms of head and neck injury. The additional training would have been incorporated into coaches' first aid certification renewal. Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.
- e) AB 1893 (Hayashi) of 2010, would have required all high school spirit activities (HSSA) coaches to have valid certification in CPR and first aid, including an understanding of signs, symptoms, and appropriate emergency action steps regarding potentially catastrophic injury, including but not limited to, head and neck injury and concussion. Pupils participating in HSSA who experience or show signs of trauma or other injury would have needed to obtain a release from the treating provider before resuming spirit activities. Held in the Assembly Education Committee.
- f) AB 533 (Hayashi) of 2009, would have required training for coaches to be able to identify symptoms of head and neck injury. The training would have been incorporated into coaches' first aid certification renewal. Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.
- g) AB 2741 (Miller) Chapter 744, Statutes of 1998, established the 1998 California High School Coaching and Education Program to be administered by school districts and to emphasize, among other things, sport psychology, sport pedagogy, sport physiology, CPR, and first aid.

## **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

### **Support**

There is no support on file.

### **Opposition**

There is no opposition on file.

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