

Date of Hearing: April 4, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, TOURISM, AND
INTERNET MEDIA

Kansen Chu, Chair

AB 2800 (Chu) – As Introduced February 16, 2018

SUBJECT: High school athletics: California High School Coaching Education and Training Program: heat illness.

SUMMARY: Would require high school coaches to be trained with a basic understanding of the signs and symptoms of heat illness, as defined, and the appropriate response to heat illness.

Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Would add certification of a basic understanding of the signs and symptoms of heat illness and the appropriate response, to the first aid training high school coaches receive pursuant to the 1998 California High School Coaching Education and Training Program (HSCTP).
- 2) Declares that, for purposes of this section, “heat illness” includes heat cramps, heat syncope, heat exhaustion, and exertional heat stroke.
- 3) Allows that the training requirement may be fulfilled through entities offering free, online, or other types of training courses.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Contains the 1998 HSCTP, which is administered by school districts and emphasizes the following components:
 - 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 the appropriate response to concussions. Concussion training may be fulfilled through entities offering free, online, or other types of training courses.

- 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 Federal Centers for Disease Control, (CDC) states that heat illness during practice or competition is the leading cause of death among U.S. high school athletes.

"Students participating in high-intensity, long-duration or repeated same-day sports practices and training activities during the summer months or other hot-weather days are at greatest risk. Football has received the most attention because of the number and severity of exertional heat illnesses. Notably, the National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury Research (NCCSIR) reports that 42 high school football players died of Exertional Heat Stroke (EHS) between 1995 and 2014. Tragically, here in California two students passed away from heat illness last year alone.

"There are several types of heat illness ranging in severity the most severe of which, EHS is the leading cause of preventable death in high school athletics. Heat related illness also results in thousands of emergency room visits and hospitalizations throughout the nation each year. Although heat illness can be fatal, death is preventable if quickly recognized and properly treated.

"The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) has a free online training module which coaches may currently elect to take which teaches prevention, recognition and treatment of heat related illness. However this training is optional, not mandatory. AB 2800 would simply make the existing free lifesaving training program, or any other comparable online, or other types of training courses, part of the mandatory health and safety training for coaches."

The California Athletic Trainers Association states simply in support, "AB 2800 will save lives. ... The reality is that most schools don't have access to trained healthcare providers on a daily basis and this bill would ensure that all coaches are trained to recognize signs and symptoms of exertional heat illness and provide appropriate first aid care to help mitigate the effects of exertional heat illness. It is a simple, cost effective bill that will have an impact on young athletes."

- 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 and concussions. CIF offers a free online concussion training course for coaches where they receive an immediate printed certification upon completion. There is also a free online course for heat illness, which under current practice, is a voluntary supplemental course.

The free CIF online training course in heat illness prevention includes sections which explore the principles of Heat Illness Awareness, Adequate Hydration, Gradual Acclimatization, Hydration Status Record Keeping, and offers Additional Prevention Measures.

Currently, coaches must complete a CPR/First Aid/Concussion course and renew that training every two years. Because this bill includes training on heat illness as part of the mandatory training requirement, coaches will be required to receive updated heat illness 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 2009 (Maienschein), would require, commencing July 1, 2019 that any school district or charter school which offers any interscholastic athletic program, must ensure that there is an emergency action plan in place that describes the location and procedures to be followed in the event of sudden cardiac arrest or other medical emergencies related to the athletic program’s activities or events, and acquire at least one AED for each school within the school district or the charter school, for the purpose of rendering emergency care or treatment, as specified. The bill would also expressly state that an employee is not liable for civil damages resulting from the rendering of emergency care or treatment pursuant to the bill’s provisions, except as provided, nor a public school, school district, or charter school, except as provided. Currently pending before the Assembly Committee on Education.
- b) AB 141 (Hayashi), Chapter 173, Statutes of 2012, added requirements to the California High School Coaching Education and Training Program (HSCTP) for training on understanding the signs and symptoms of concussions and the appropriate response to concussions.
- c) 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.
- d) 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.

- e) 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.

- f) 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

California Association of Athletic Trainers
California Associations for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
California Interscholastic Federation

Opposition

There is no opposition on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Dana Mitchell / A.,E.,S.,T., & I.M. / (916) 319-3450