

March 5, 2014

City of Ardmore, Tennessee  
Ms. Mary Prier  
City Recorder  
25844 Main Street  
Ardmore, Tennessee 38449

Dear Ms. Prier:

Responsive to your inquiry regarding the Tennessee Sports Concussion Law and the protocol for “access to a designated health care professional during the contest”, TCA § 68-55-503(F) provides as follows:

(F) Establish as policy the immediate removal of any youth athlete who shows signs, symptoms, and behaviors consistent with a concussion from the activity or competition for evaluation by the licensed health care professional, if available, and, if not, by the coach or other designated person. In determining whether a youth athlete suffered from a possible concussion, the centers for disease control and prevention's concussion signs and symptoms checklist shall be utilized (my emphasis).

TCA § 68-55-503(B) provides as follows:

(B) Require annual completion by the director of the youth athletic activity, all coaches, whether a coach is employed or a volunteer, and, if appointed, the licensed health care professional of a concussion recognition and head injury safety education course program developed by the department. In developing the program, the department may use any of the materials readily available from the centers for disease control and prevention, but shall include the centers' concussion signs and symptoms checklist which must be used by a licensed health care professional, coach or other designated person making a determination as to whether a youth athlete exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion. The department shall make the concussion recognition and head injury safety education course program available on its web site for any youth athletic activity operated by a city, county, business or nonprofit organization to access free of charge. The program shall include, but not be limited to:

- (i) Current training in recognizing the signs and symptoms of potentially catastrophic head injuries, concussions and injuries related to second impact syndrome;
- (ii) The necessity of obtaining proper medical attention for a person suspected of having sustained a concussion; and
- (iii) The nature and risk of concussions, including the danger of continuing to play after sustaining a concussion and the proper method and statutory requirements that must be satisfied in order for a youth athlete to return to play in the athletic activity (my emphasis)

Accordingly, any youth athlete demonstrating behaviors consistent with a concussion must be immediately removed from the activity for evaluation by a licensed health care professional, if available. A licensed health care professional includes a certified athletic trainer, licensed nurse practitioner, physician's assistant, medical doctor or osteopathic physician. If a licensed health care professional is not available, a coach or other designated person completing a concussion recognition and head injury safety education course program will satisfy the requirement. In either situation, the health care professional, coach, or other designated person must be on site during the activity or contest.

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A copy of the Concussion Signs and Symptoms Checklist set forth in the statute is enclosed for ease of reference.

Please let me know if you require additional information regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeffrey J. Broughton  
Municipal Management Consultant