



childrenscolorado.org/concussion

Senate Bill 40 helps to educate school coaches, parents and players and keep student athletes safe after a concussion.

Background

Youth sports teach kids leadership, teamwork, self-confidence and athleticism. Sports provide a healthy outlet for kids' energy, but they can also pose certain risks, including the risk of a concussion. In recent years, many organizations, including the NFL and NCAA, have paid increasing attention to the risks of concussion and head injuries among athletes. Now, in response to national attention and an increasing body of medical evidence about sports concussion, a number of states are taking steps to protect youth athletes.

What does Senate Bill 40 do?

Senate Bill 40 (SB-40) helps to keep young athletes **active and safe** in four important ways:

1. SB-40 ensures that coaches of youth sports for kids age 11-18 get training in how to understand the nature and risk of concussions and be able to recognize the signs and symptoms that indicate a young athlete may have sustained a concussion.
2. If a coach suspects that a player has sustained a concussion, the athlete must be removed from practice or play and cannot return that same day (unless the signs and symptoms can be readily explained by another condition).
3. The coach must notify the athlete's parent or guardian of the suspected concussion.
4. Before returning to practice or play, a player who has been removed due to a suspected concussion must be evaluated by a healthcare provider and receive written clearance from the provider to return to play. In an effort to ensure access in urban, suburban and rural areas, the bill broadly defines the healthcare providers that can determine if an athlete is ready to return to play, allowing sign-off by physicians, neuropsychologists, physician assistants and nurse practitioners.¹

Sponsored by Senators Nancy Spence (R) and Linda Newell (D), as well as Representatives Ken Summers (R) and Nancy Todd (D), Senate Bill 40 was signed into law on March 29, 2011 and its provisions took effect January 1, 2012. The votes on SB-40 and its full text can be found on the legislature's website at leg.state.co.us (under "Senate," click "Bills," and scroll down to SB11-040).



Contact Us

To schedule an appointment or for more information about our concussion program, please call 720-777-2806 or visit our website at childrenscolorado.org/concussion

Are concussions common?

While concussions are more common in some sports, concussions can and do occur in every sport. It is estimated that between **1,500 and 2,500 youth athletes** visit Colorado emergency rooms for sports-related concussions each year.²

Do we really need Senate Bill 40?

Yes! Coaches, parents and players need to recognize concussions when they happen.

A concussion is an injury to the brain that disrupts how the brain normally works. Another term for concussion is mild traumatic brain injury (mild TBI). Even though a concussion might be called a “mild” injury, it still must be taken seriously because it is an injury to the brain. In rare cases, severe medical problems can occur after a significant blow or jolt to the head.

Yes! Kids need rest when they’ve had a concussion. While less visible than a broken arm or a sprained ankle, a concussion is an injury to the brain, and every concussion every concussion requires medical evaluation. Most concussions heal fully, but a young athlete needs plenty of time—and proper medical attention—to give the brain an opportunity to mend.

1. The bill also permits registered athletic trainers, who by law work under the supervision of a physician, to manage a concussed athlete’s gradual return to play after the athlete has been evaluated and received clearance to return to play from a healthcare provider.
2. This number significantly underestimates the total incidence of youth sports concussions because it does not include youth athletes evaluated in non-emergency department settings or concussions that go undiagnosed or untreated. Source: Youth Sports Concussion: Recommendations for Enhancing Athlete Safety available at biacolorado.org.

Network of Care Locations

- o Children’s Hospital Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora
- o Children’s Hospital Colorado
North Campus, Broomfield
- o Children’s Hospital Colorado
Therapy Care, Broomfield
- o Children’s Hospital Colorado
Orthopedic Care, Centennial
- o Children’s Hospital Colorado
Urgent and Outpatient Specialty
Care Uptown, Denver
- o Children’s Hospital Colorado
South Campus, Highlands Ranch
- o Children’s Hospital Colorado
Outpatient Specialty Care, Parker
- o Children’s Hospital Colorado
Urgent and Outpatient Specialty Care,
Wheatridge
- o Children’s Hospital Colorado
Outpatient Specialty Care at Briargate,
Colorado Springs
- o CU Sports Medicine with Care by
Children’s Hospital Colorado, Boulder

