

- SUBJECT:** Requiring youth athletics groups to adopt injury training policies
- COMMITTEE:** Public Health — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — VanDeaver, Bucy, Collier, Johnson, J. Jones, Olcott, Pierson, Schofield, Simmons
- 3 nays — Cunningham, Frank, Shofner
- 1 absent — Campos
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jason Sabo, Children at Risk; Michaela Bennett, Children’s Health; Robert Feather, Cook Children’s Health Care System; Joel Romo, Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance; Meredith Cooke, Texas Children’s Hospital; Matt Dowling, Clayton Stewart and Amanda Tollett, Texas Medical Association; Bobby Hillert, Texas Orthopaedic Association; Steven Deline; Becca Harkleroad; Thomas Parkinson)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jeremy Triplett, Department of State Health Services)
- BACKGROUND:** Concerns have been raised that while youth sports provide developmental benefits, they also pose risks such as concussions, heat-related emergencies, and cardiac incidents, and that many coaches lack formal injury prevention training.
- DIGEST:** HB 3811 would require youth athletics associations that sponsor or conduct sports training or high-risk youth athletics activities to adopt a policy requiring all the association’s coaches and athletics personnel to complete, if available at no cost, a youth injury mitigation and information course approved by the Department of State Health Services.
- The bill would define an “association” as an organization that administers

or conducts high-risk youth athletics activities on property owned, leased, managed or maintained by this state, an agent of the state, or a state agency or political subdivision.

“Athletics personnel” would mean athletic directors or persons organizing, training, or coaching youth athletes younger than 15 years old. The bill would define a “coach” as any individual the association approves to organize, train, or supervise youth athletes, including an unpaid volunteer or a substitute chosen to as a coach when the approved individual is unavailable.

The bill would define “high-risk youth athletics activities” as organized sports with significant physical injury risks, including baseball, basketball, cheerleading, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, and volleyball.

Youth injury and information course. The bill would require the course to include information on:

- emergency preparedness, planning, and rehearsal for traumatic injuries;
- concussions and head trauma;
- heat and extreme weather-related injury familiarization;
- physical conditioning and training equipment usage; and
- heart defects and abnormalities leading to sudden cardiac arrest and death.

The bill would require a person to complete the course no later than 30 days after the person became actively engaged in or served as a coach or member of the athletics personnel for an association. The bill also would require the person to complete the course annually, no later than the anniversary of the date when the person became actively engaged or began serving.

The bill would require an association conducting a high-risk youth athletics activity or event that required a coach or member of the athletics personnel to complete the course to maintain a record of the individual’s course completion during the period the person served in that role.

Immunity from liability. The bill would grant a coach or member of the athletics personnel immunity from civil liability for an injury sustained by a youth athlete during participation in a high-risk activity if the coach or member had completed the course and reasonably conformed their conduct to the techniques and methods identified in the course.

As soon as practicable after the bill's effective date, the bill would require the Executive Commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to adopt rules to implement the bill.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2025.