

2013 Nebraska Sports Concussion Head Coach Survey -- Highlights

Head coaches of Nebraska high school organized sports were surveyed on a broad array of issues surrounding concussions in April 2013. A total of 1,074 head coaches participated in the survey. Following are the highlights of the results.

I. In general, coaches perceive LB260 as effective and not a hindrance to their ability to coach.

- The vast majority (92%) of surveyed head coaches reported that their school made training on the signs and symptoms of concussions available to them before the start of practice, and 87% reported that their school made concussion training mandatory.
- The vast majority (89%) of respondents perceived LB260 as effective or highly effective in allowing a student athlete with a concussion to recover completely before returning to play.
- A very small minority (3%) of respondents perceive LB260 as a hindrance to their ability to coach. The remainder of the surveyed head coaches perceive the law as helpful or neutral, with approximately one fourth (26%) perceiving the law as helpful, but also adding some difficulties to their position as coach.

II. There are some alarming barriers facing coaches to properly manage athletes with suspected concussions, including resistance from athletes and parents, and a lack of notification when an athlete receives a concussion in another sport or activity.

- A strong majority (71%) of head coach respondents have coached an athlete who suffered a concussion or was suspected of suffering a concussion while playing a sport they coach.
- Among those who have coached an athlete who suffered a concussion or was suspected of suffering a concussion...
 - 29% reported knowledge of an athlete they coached not reporting their concussion symptoms in order to continue playing.
 - 44% reported that an athlete they coached has resisted being removed from play due to a suspected concussion.
 - 13% reported that the parents of an athlete with a suspected concussion have tried to stop them from removing their child from play.
 - 23% reported that the parents of an athlete with a suspected concussion have tried to have their child return to play without a doctor's clearance.
- Less than half (44%) of respondents reported being always or often notified when a student athlete suffers a concussion in another school sport.
- A minority (19%) of respondents reported being always or often notified when a student athlete suffers a concussion in a non-school activity or club sport.
- Respondents from smaller schools were more likely to report being notified when an athlete they coach receives a concussion in another sport or activity (whether it be a school-sanctioned activity or not), as compared to those from larger schools.

