

# 2013 Nebraska Sports Concussion Head Coach Survey -- Highlights

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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.

