



SPONSOR: Rep. Longhurst & Sen. Sokola

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF STUDENT ATHLETES.

1 WHEREAS, it is the desire of the House of Representative of the 150th General Assembly of the State of
2 Delaware, the Senate concurring therein, to improve the health and safety of our youth athletes in the State of Delaware;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, in the United States, 90% of high school student athletes report some type of sports-related
5 injury. The highest rate of sports-related emergency room visits are experienced by students that are between 15 and 17-
6 years-old. Among students who play on 1, 2, and 3 or more sports teams, the prevalence of having at least 1 concussion
7 is 16.7%, 22.9%, and 30.3%, respectively. Between 2008 and 2015, more than 300 sports-related deaths of young athletes
8 occurred in the United States alone; and

9 WHEREAS, in Delaware, participation in interscholastic athletics represents an important part of the educational
10 experience of middle and high school students. Educators consider interscholastic athletics to be an important extension of
11 the classroom where many life skills are best learned; and

12 WHEREAS, during the 2016-2017 academic year, 30,034 students in Delaware participated in interscholastic
13 athletics at the high school level. This represents the single largest extracurricular activity at Delaware Interscholastic
14 Athletic Association member schools. This includes 16,217 males and 13,817 females, including participation in
15 competitive and sideline spirit and cheer. The rate of participation by females stands at 46%, which exceeds the national
16 rate of 42.2%. Participation in interscholastic athletics is judged by many educators to be a prime motivator for many
17 students to stay in school and achieve academic success; and

18 WHEREAS, in Delaware, boys' and girls' basketball are the male and female sports with the largest participation
19 rate by school with 59 member schools fielding a boys or girls team or both. Football remains the male sport with the
20 greatest number of male participants at 2,777. Girls' soccer continues as the girls' sport with the greatest number of
21 participants at 1,701.

22 NOW, THEREFORE:

23 BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of the 150th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the Senate concurring
24 therein, that the members of the Delaware General Assembly hereby recognize the importance of the Athletes Bill of Rights
25 created by the Youth Sports Safety Alliance as follows:

26 1. Student Athletes have the right to be coached by individuals who are well trained in sport-specific safety
27 and to be monitored by athletic health care team members.

28 2. Student Athletes have the right to quality, regular pre-participation examinations and each athlete has the
29 right to participate under a comprehensive concussion management plan.

30 3. Student Athletes have the right to participate in sporting activities on safe, clean playing surfaces, in both
31 indoor and outdoor facilities.

32 4. Student Athletes have the right to utilize equipment and uniforms that are safe, fitted appropriately and
33 routinely maintained, and to appropriate personnel trained in proper removal of equipment in case of injury.

34 5. Student Athletes have the right to participate safely in all environmental conditions where play follows
35 approved guidelines and medical policies and procedures, with a hydration plan in place.

36 6. Student Athletes have the right to a safe playing environment with venue-specific emergency action plans
37 that are coordinated by the athletic health care team and regularly rehearsed with local emergency personnel.

38 7. Student Athletes have the right to privacy of health information and proper referral for medical,
39 psychosocial and nutritional counseling.

40 8. Student Athletes have the right to participate in a culture that finds “playing through pain” unacceptable
41 unless there has been a medical assessment.

42 9. Student Athletes have the right to immediate, on-site injury assessments with decisions made by qualified
43 sports medicine professionals.

44 10. Student Athletes have the right, along with their parents, to the latest information about the benefits and
45 potential risks of participation in competitive sports, including access to statistics on fatalities and catastrophic injuries
46 to youth athletes.

SYNOPSIS

This Concurrent Resolution recognizes the importance of the health and safety of student athletes, drawing special attention to the Athletes Bill of Rights created by the Youth Sports Safety Alliance. Many youth in Delaware participate in athletics. Participation in athletics by youth promotes continued participation in school and excellence in academics. Therefore, it is important to protect these student athletes while they participate in these extracurricular activities.