

Coaches,

It has come to my attention that the Tennessee Senate has recently passed a bill (Tennessee State Bill 882) designed to educate on the dangers of concussions by requiring that all coaches, whether employed or volunteer, go through a head injury safety education course developed by the Tennessee Department of Health or the CDC. The law includes all schools in the state, excluding institutes of higher education, as well as “any city, county, business or non-profit organization that organizes a community-based youth athletic activity for which an activity fee is charged.” This law goes into effect on January 1, 2014.

The goal of providing an extra layer of protection for our young athletes through education and the sharing of information is very commendable. However, if this new requirement gives you cause for concern, please know that we do have good resources available through the CDC that are not only user friendly but also make this whole process pretty painless.

For a quick glimpse, please go to this CDC web site:

[http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online\\_training.html](http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html)

I will be pulling heavily from this site to meet those requirements placed upon the City as the league provider. This site is also where you will find the online training for coaches. I recently took the certification course and found it to be very good. Please note: If you are “test shy”, you will appreciate the CDC’s presentation of material. You can print out the course information to read ahead of time or simply use it as a reference as you move through the course. In addition to the course materials, you can also print out ahead of time the short test you will be given at the end of the course. There are no surprises, just good information that we can all use. After you have completed the course you will be directed to print out your certificate of completion. The whole process took me about 30 minutes.

If at all possible we hope that all adults working with your basketball team will take the time to complete this course of instruction; but at a minimum, we need a certificate of completion from at least one coach per team.

For our part, we will be getting Parent/Athlete Concussion Information Sheets to you to pass on to your players. These information sheets will require signatures of both your players and their parents and are to be returned to me. A parent’s signature is not required for those players who are already 18 years of age. If you will pass the forms out at your first practice, I would be happy to collect them from players at their first game.

In addition to the above requirements, our City-sponsored youth leagues will adopt the Action Plan recommended by the CDC. This plan, which I am including with this notice, will be attached to our league rules in the future.