



**California Concussion Law**

California has modified its existing school concussion law to apply the requirements to youth sports organizations in which athletes participate, including swimming. These requirements apply to out of state coaches whose swimmers are attending the 2019 Phillips 66 National Championships and 2019 Speedo Junior National Championships.

1. The law requires that a youth athletic program must immediately remove an athlete from an athletic activity for the remainder of the day, if the athlete is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury, and prohibit the athlete from returning to the activity until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider, trained in the management of concussions, and acting within the scope of his or her practice. The athlete must receive written clearance from the licensed health care provider to return to the athletic activity. If the athlete is diagnosed with a concussion, they must go through a graduated return to play protocol of no less than seven days under the supervision of a licensed health care provider. Youth sports organizations must also notify the parents or guardians of athletes 17 or younger who have been removed from athletic activities due to suspected concussions.

**2. Coaches and administrators must successfully complete the concussion and head injury education required under the bill at least once either online or in person.** The following courses from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) satisfy the requirements.

[CDC Concussion Course](#)

[NFHS Concussion Course](#)

3. USA Swimming has also developed concussion and head injury education materials for coaches and administrators. Below is a concussion at the pool checklist for coaches, officials, and parents.

[Concussion at the pool Checklist](#)

After entering the meet, you will receive the standard USA Swimming Participant Waiver, a Concussion Information Sheet for Parents and Swimmers, and the Concussion Acknowledgment Document. Please be sure to take the time to read this information to avoid any delays or issues at the meet. Both the waiver and the acknowledgment document will need to be signed and submitted for each athlete at registration.

If you have any questions on this please contact George Ward, Senior Director of Risk Management, USA Swimming at [gward@usaswimming.org](mailto:gward@usaswimming.org).