

Dear MIAA Member School Principals and Athletic Directors,

The MIAA Board of Directors met on Tuesday, August 24, which provided the initial opportunity for the Board to discuss the recently enacted “Concussion Law”. The Board was joined by Dr. Alan Ashare, Chair of the MIAA Sports Medicine Committee, and MIAA Deputy Director Bill Gaine who has represented the Association in recent forums responding to the law’s passage.

Dr. Ashare is a preeminent authority on concussions, and was actually a participant in the 2001 Concussion Summit in Vienna. The Summit represented the first international focus on concussions. Both Dr. Ashare and Deputy Director Gaine have collaborated in the past with the Department of Public Health (DPH), which is responsible for the law’s passage and for the writing of the regulations necessary for implementation of the law.

The Board identified fundamental concerns related to elements of the law that should be addressed by DPH before school leaders will be able to compliment their existing concussion prevention, management, and return to play (RTP) protocols.

There was speculation that members of the Legislature may not have been aware that as recently as June, the MIAA Board of Directors adopted a Concussion Rule ([click here](#)) for all thirty plus sports sanctioned by the Association, and that the Association and member schools have for years focused on this important health and safety area.

The Board did *vote* to charge the Association’s Sports Medicine Committee to monitor developments as regulations, forms, etc. are being considered by the DPH, and then to advise the Board as to how the Association might support and assist its 370 plus member schools to address the resultant product.

[Click here](#) for an array of “Concussion Resources” and other related information.

With best wishes for a safe school year, I am

Sincerely yours,

Dick Neal

Executive Director

c: MIAC

Board of Directors

Association Committees

Member School Coaches