

**Outline of Sport Organization Requirements to Comply with Rowan’s Law**

<p>The final <a href="#">regulation</a> is currently available on <a href="#">e-laws</a> and sport organizations should refer to it as well as the <a href="#">legislation</a> for a comprehensive list of obligations under the Act; however, as a high level overview:</p>	
<p><b>As of July 1, 2019, sport organizations (as defined in the Act/regulation) must:</b></p>	<p><b>Tools:</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>not register athletes under 26 years of age**, in a prescribed activity in an amateur competitive sport as defined in the Act/regulation, unless they have received confirmation from the athlete and their parent/guardian (if the athlete is under 18 years of age) that they have reviewed the Minister approved Concussion Awareness Resources within the previous 12 months.</li> </ul>	<p><b>#1:</b> The official Concussion Awareness Resources are available on the government’s website @ <a href="http://ontario.ca/concussions">ontario.ca/concussions</a>.</p> <p>To help facilitate meeting the requirements related to Concussion Awareness Resources, sport organizations may wish to print hard copies of the Concussion Awareness Resources to have on hand for parents and athletes who register in person after July 1.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>establish a Concussion Code of Conduct which sets out, at a minimum, the requirements outlined in the regulation</li> </ul>	<p><b>#2:</b> A sample Concussion Code of Conduct template will be made available on the government’s website @ <a href="http://ontario.ca/concussions">ontario.ca/concussions</a>, shortly, for adoption or adaptation.</p> <p>Changing processes at the higher systems level will take time. In the interim, sport organizations, may wish to consider interim measures/processes that can be put place at club level, on the ground, to meet the requirements of the legislation and regulation while working towards a formalized, Board approved Concussion Code of Conduct. Sport organizations should implement and manage these requirements as they determine, working within the parameters of their organizational structure. If there is uncertainty about an approach, sport organizations should seek independent legal advice to determine what is appropriate for their organization.</p> <p>Possible interim measures could include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creating an interim Concussion Code of Conduct for parents and players by simply using the mandatory requirements (see elements</li> </ol>

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in the table below) if a sport organization (e.g., PSO, league or club) does not currently have a Concussion Code of Conduct. The sport organization could make this interim Code of Conduct available at the time of registration, enabling parents and players to confirm review to the PSO, league or club. This would meet legal requirements of having something in place until a PSO, league or club can finalize something more formal at the system level, OR

Item	Description of commitment or acknowledgement	Individuals required to make the commitment or give the acknowledgement
1.	Commitment to fair play and respect for all	Athletes, parents and guardians of athletes who are under 18 years of age, coaches and team trainers
2.	Commitment to concussion recognition and reporting, including self-reporting of possible concussion and reporting to a designated person when an individual suspects that another individual may have sustained a concussion	Athletes, parents and guardians of athletes who are under 18 years of age, coaches and team trainers
3.	Commitment to supporting the return-to-sport process	Athletes, parents and guardians of athletes who are under 18 years of age, coaches and team trainers
4.	Commitment to sharing any pertinent information regarding incidents of a removal from sport with the athlete’s school and any other sport organization with which the athlete has registered	Athletes, parents and guardians of athletes who are under 18 years of age
5.	Commitment to providing opportunities before and after each training, practice and competition to enable athletes to discuss potential issues related to concussions	Coaches

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*6.	Commitment to zero-tolerance for prohibited play that is considered high-risk for causing concussions	Athletes, parents and guardians of athletes who are under 18 years of age, and coaches
*7.	Acknowledgement of mandatory expulsion from competition for violating zero-tolerance for prohibited play that is considered high-risk for causing concussions	Athletes, parents and guardians of athletes who are under 18 years of age, and coaches
*8.	Acknowledgement of escalating consequences for those who repeatedly violate the concussion code of conduct	Athletes, parents and guardians of athletes who are under 18 years of age, and coaches

2. Modifying an existing Concussion Code of Conduct (if one exists) and ensuring it incorporates the mandatory requirements (see elements in the table below), OR
3. PSOs, leagues or clubs also can adopt the Concussion Code of Conduct of an NSO, another PSO, or other higher body if it complies with all the requirements set out under Rowan’s Law.

**O.Reg. 161/19: General  
Section 4 : Concussion code of conduct**

\*Note regarding #6-8 in the table above: If a PSO, league or club has adopted policies regarding (a) zero-tolerance (b) mandatory disqualification for illegal play that is considered high risk for causing concussions and (c) escalating consequences for violation of the Concussion Code of Conduct, they will need to include the remaining three mandatory requirements from the regulation.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>not register athletes under 26 years of age**, in a prescribed activity in an amateur competitive sport as defined in the Act/regulation, unless they have received confirmation from the athlete and their parent/guardian (if the athlete is under 18 years of age) that they have reviewed the sport organization’s Concussion Code of Conduct within the previous 12 months.</li> </ul>	<p>See Tool #2 above.</p>
<p><b>Between July 1, 2019 but no later than August 30, 2019, sport organizations must not:</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>permit individuals to serve <b>as coaches, officials and team trainers</b> for a sport organization, in a prescribed activity that includes any athlete under 26 years of age**, unless the individual gives the sport organization confirmation in the calendar year, but before the first time they serve in that position in the year, that they have reviewed the <b>Minister approved Concussion Awareness Resources</b> within 12 months before the confirmation is given.</li> </ul>	<p>See Tool #1 above.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>permit individuals to serve <b>as coaches and team trainers</b> for a sport organization, in a prescribed activity that includes any athlete under 26 years of age**, unless the individual gives the sport organization confirmation in the calendar year, but</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>See Tool #2 above.</p>

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before the first time they serve in that position in the year, that they have reviewed the <b>sport organization's Concussion Code of Conduct</b> within 12 months before the confirmation is given.	
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\*\* Exception: A sport organization that is a University, College of Applied Arts and Technology or other Post-Secondary Institution must not register any athlete irrespective of age, or allow any coach, official or team trainer to serve irrespective of athlete age, unless the same requirements are met.