

My name is Raymond Faustich and I was a Teacher, Coach and Athletic Director in Connecticut for over 34 years. I am presently the CSBABU (Connecticut State Board of Approved Baseball Umpires) Baseball Rules Interpreter and I am also a member of their Executive Board. I was previously a member of the NFHS (National Federation of High Schools) Baseball Rules Committee for eight years and served as that group's chairman for four years. I have umpired baseball for many years and it is with great honor that I represent over 900 baseball umpires throughout the State of Connecticut. It has come to my attention that a bill: **HB 5113- ACT CONCERNING YOUTH ATHLETICS AND CONCUSSIONS** is being proposed by the **Children's Committee** to the **Connecticut State Legislature** that would require all **Sports Officials** to participate and complete a new course in athletic concussion prevention ; occurrence and protocol for return to participation. I believe that game officials are an important and integral part of the "safety umbrella" afforded athletes in our state. I further believe that we have already provided more than adequate concussion training for our umpires.

These are the steps that the NFHS, CIAC and CSBABU have taken over the past five years:

- Inclusion of ***Guidelines for Management of Concussion*** in the NFHS Rules Book;
- Inclusion of safety standards (including ***Concussion Protocol***) that all CSBABU chapters must attest to in order to be contracted by and through the CIAC Board of Control;
- A yearly CIAC/CSBABU statewide **Interpreters Meeting** (which includes ***Concussion Protocol***) at which the rules interpreters of all nine chapters of the CSBABU are required to attend;
- Inclusion of the CIAC ***Concussion Protocol*** at every local CSBABU interpretation meeting.
- Inclusion of the NFHS Video; "**Concussion in Sports**" which is provided to all of our members through the NFHS Education Center.
- Distribution of laminated ***Concussion Protocol Cards*** to all of our members.

We clearly understand that through the cooperation of coaches, game officials and administrators; we can provide a safe playing environment for our student athletes but, requiring additional hours of course work for our umpires is redundant and unnecessary. We hope you will understand that we have already taken this issue seriously and will continue to do so. Thank you for your continued concern in the safety of our student athletes and allowing us to participate in this discussion.

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