



The State of Youth Sports

Special Working Group on Youth Sports

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The State of Youth Sports

Youth sports are at a crossroads. Participation in youth sports is an unequalled opportunity for kids to be healthy, build bonds with peers and learn about leadership and teamwork. There is even evidence that it can protect against mental health issues like depression and anxiety.¹

Increasingly, though, youth sports are also a business.² This can make youth sports a source of anxiety for everyone involved. Parents struggle under increased costs³ and unreasonable expectations. Players face increased pressure in this atmosphere which can lead to injuries and burnout.⁴ Meanwhile, other youths find sports out of reach if their parents cannot afford for them to play.⁵

This change in youth sports is not limited to the players and their families – an increase in negative spectator behavior has driven officials and coaches from the games they love.⁶

These challenges have attracted attention at the federal level, where members of Congress have introduced legislation to ban private equity from youth sports.⁷

The recommendations included in this report are intended to meet these challenges. They do so with the ultimate goal of putting the focus where it belongs: letting kids play and letting them have fun playing the sports they love.

¹ Matt Richtel, "Physical Fitness Linked to Better Mental Health in Young People," *New York Times*, April 29, 2024, [Physical Fitness Linked to Better Mental Health in Young People](#).

² Joe Drape and Ken Belson, "Youth Sports Are a \$40 Billion Business. Private Equity Is Taking Notice," *New York Times*, July 9, 2025, [Youth Sports Are a \\$40 Billion Business. Private Equity Is Taking Notice](#).

³ Jon Solomon, "Project Play survey: Family spending on youth sports rises 46% over five years," *Project Play*, March 3, 2025, [Project Play survey: Family spending on youth sports rises 46% over five years](#).

⁴ Alyson Sulaski Wyckoff, "Professionalization of youth sports can lead to burnout: Why athletes need time off," *AAP News*, January 22, 2024, [Professionalization of youth sports can lead to burnout: Why athletes need time off](#).

⁵ Jon Solomon, "Survey: Low-income kids are 6 times more likely to quit sports due to costs," *Project Play*, January 14th, 2020, [Survey: Low-income kids are 6 times more likely to quit sports due to costs](#).

⁶ Shwetha Surendran, "Survey: Managing parents among top reasons youth coaches quit," *ESPN*, January 29, 2026, [Survey: Managing parents among top reasons youth coaches quit](#).

⁷ Stephen Borelli, "Bill seeks to end 'vulture practices' in kids sports: What it means," *USA Today*, May 13, 2026, [Bill seeks to end 'vulture practices' in kids sports: What it means](#).

Executive Summary

The Massachusetts Special Working Group on Youth Sports was established by the Mass Leads Act (Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 238 of the Acts of 2024) to examine the current state of youth sports in the Commonwealth and develop recommendations to ensure that youth sports remain safe, accessible, and focused on the wellbeing of children. Over the course of several months, the Working Group convened experts from government, education, athletics, nonprofit organizations, and community sports programs, held public hearings across Massachusetts, received written testimony, and evaluated current practices and emerging national trends. This report reflects those findings and proposes a comprehensive framework for modernizing the governance of youth sports in the Commonwealth.

The Working Group found that youth sports continue to provide extraordinary benefits to children. Participation promotes physical fitness, supports mental health, develops leadership and teamwork skills, strengthens social connections, and builds lifelong healthy habits. However, the environment surrounding youth sports has changed dramatically over the past decade. Increasing commercialization and professionalization have shifted the emphasis away from recreation and child development toward competition, financial investment, and performance outcomes. Rising participation costs have made organized sports increasingly inaccessible for many families, while heightened expectations from parents and private organizations have contributed to athlete burnout, overuse injuries, and declining enjoyment among young participants.

At the same time, coaches and officials face growing challenges. Testimony presented to the Working Group demonstrated that verbal abuse, harassment, and even physical assaults by spectators have become significant obstacles to recruiting and retaining qualified coaches and officials. Meanwhile, oversight of youth sports remains fragmented among hundreds of organizations operating under differing standards for safety, training, conduct, and discipline. The absence of a centralized regulatory framework leaves significant inconsistencies in how youth sports are administered throughout Massachusetts.

To address these challenges, the Working Group recommends a comprehensive statewide approach built around accountability, safety, education, and equitable access.

The report's primary recommendation is the creation of an independent state agency dedicated exclusively to youth sports. Currently, no Massachusetts agency has comprehensive responsibility for overseeing youth sports programs. A new agency would serve as the central authority responsible for collecting statewide data, establishing safety standards, coordinating policy, administering regulatory programs, and providing guidance and resources to leagues, coaches, officials, parents, and athletes. The agency would also oversee implementation of the remaining recommendations contained in the report.

Building on the recommendation to create a dedicated state youth sports agency, the Working Group recommends a statewide framework for coach and official licensure, training, and accountability. Under this framework, coaches and officials participating in organized youth sports would complete centralized CORI and SORI background checks, meet minimum training standards, and be subject to consistent disciplinary procedures. Required training would include concussion awareness, player safety, abuse prevention, and bias awareness, while allowing organizations to maintain additional sport-specific requirements. Centralizing licensure and

training records would reduce duplication, improve portability for volunteers, and prevent individuals disciplined by one organization from avoiding accountability by moving to another league.

The report also recommends stronger tools to address misconduct by spectators and promote sportsmanship. These include a voluntary statewide registry through which participating organizations could share disciplinary information about parents or spectators whose conduct threatens safety or event integrity, subject to confidentiality, due process, and standardized procedures. In addition, the Working Group recommends a statewide model Code of Conduct establishing baseline expectations for coaches, officials, athletes, parents, and spectators. To address the growing problem of abuse and violence directed at coaches and officials, the report further recommends enhanced criminal penalties for assault and battery committed against them while performing their duties.

Protecting the health and wellbeing of young athletes is another central focus of the recommendations. The Working Group recommends granting the Commonwealth regulatory authority to establish reasonable standards for participation hours, season length, practice schedules, and activity timing, with flexibility to account for sport, age, and other relevant factors. The report also recommends expanding health and safety protocols beyond school-sponsored athletics to include private and community-based leagues, addressing risks such as concussions, heat illness, weather hazards, injury reporting, return-to-play procedures, and emergency preparedness.

The Working Group further recommends a statewide education and public awareness campaign to promote positive youth sports culture. Educational efforts would address the physical and mental health benefits of sports, realistic expectations about collegiate and professional opportunities, positive parenting, appropriate spectator behavior, effective coaching, and inclusion of underrepresented populations. The report also recommends prohibiting organizations or facilities from preventing families from recording youth sporting events for personal use, in response to concerns that paid streaming models may undermine the family-centered purpose of youth sports.

Finally, the report recommends new grant and financing opportunities to expand access to youth sports facilities and programs. Working across state agencies, the Commonwealth would support construction, renovation, equipment, and other capital improvements, with particular emphasis on equitable access and nonprofit and community-based organizations.

Collectively, these recommendations would modernize youth sports governance in Massachusetts without regulating the rules of individual sports. They establish a consistent statewide framework to promote child safety, support coaches and officials, strengthen organizational accountability, reduce administrative burdens, and expand access for families across the Commonwealth. Ultimately, the report calls on Massachusetts to reaffirm the core purpose of youth sports: giving every child the opportunity to learn, compete, build friendships, and enjoy athletic participation in a safe, welcoming, and affordable environment.

Legislative Mandate

Created by the Mass Leads Act (Chapter 238 of the Acts of 2024), the Youth Sports Working Group was tasked with conducting an investigation and study of the current state of youth sports.

The Working Group was composed of the Chair of the Massachusetts State Athletic Commission and appointees of the Governor and legislative leaders with expertise in youth sports. The Working Group was required to hold 3 public hearings before submitting recommendations to the Massachusetts State Athletic Commission and the General Court.

The Working Group's enabling statute is included in this report as Appendix A.

Membership

Chair of the Massachusetts State Athletic Commission

Josh Zakim is an attorney, former Boston City Councilor, affordable housing developer, and nonprofit leader. Josh is also the Chair of the Massachusetts State Athletic Commission and the Chair of the Youth Sports Working Group.

Appointees of the President of the Senate

The Honorable Barry Finegold is an attorney who represents the Second Essex and Middlesex District in the Massachusetts Senate, where he currently serves as Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. He is also a youth sports coach.

Michael Vaughan is a coach and youth sports executive with experience in high school athletics and grassroots sports programming. He currently manages Mass Premier Courts, a multi-court athletic facility.

Appointee of the Speaker of the House of Representatives

José Massó is a nonprofit leader, community organizer, and the Chief of Human Services for the City of Boston. He is a youth basketball coach and former swim coach.

Appointee of the Senate Minority Leader

The Honorable Ryan Fattman is a Vice President of Sales who represents the Worcester and Hampden District in the Massachusetts Senate, where he currently serves as Assistant Minority Leader.

Appointee of the House Minority Leader

The Honorable Marcus Vaughn represents the 9th Norfolk District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He was also an athlete at Syracuse University.

Appointees of the Governor

John Andreoli is a Licensed Insurance Advisor who serves as President and CEO of the Sullivan Group. He also played football at the College of the Holy Cross before going on to play professionally for the Boston Breakers in the USFL and with the New England Patriots. Mr. Andreoli served as the head football coach at St. John's High School in Shrewsbury for 19 seasons, where he was the winningest coach in his alma mater's history and won nine division championships and a Division III State Championship.

Carl Geneus currently serves as the Middle School Athletic Director at Noble and Greenough School in Dedham. He also serves as the Middle School Boys' Basketball Coach, Health and Wellness Teacher and Advisor. Mr. Geneus graduated with a Bachelor's of Science degree from Boston University and holds a Master of Sports Leadership from Northeastern University.

Melissa Hart is a lifelong athlete and coach who currently serves as Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Women's Soccer Co-Head Coach. Ms. Hart played soccer, basketball and softball at Hamilton College and played semi-pro basketball in Japan. She also taught physical education at Hamilton College and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Patty Raube Keller, Ed.D. serves as Program Director for the Master's in Sports Administration and Sports Analytics at Boston College. She has served as an NCAA administrator and educator across Divisions I, II, and III and conducted doctoral research on the marginalization of women in athletics. She was also a collegiate soccer and lacrosse athlete and a board member for Women in Sports and Events (WISE) Boston. Dr. Keller has coached youth sports (volleyball, soccer, lacrosse basketball & swimming for over 25 years.

Steph Lewis is the President & CEO of The BASE, an urban academy that uses the power of sports to engage youth in a positive, success-driven culture. Mr. Lewis also serves on the Advisory Board of the Sports Leadership and Administration program at UMass Boston and the Chair of Youth Development for the American Baseball Coaches Association's Diversity Committee. Steph is a graduate of Mount Ida College and is currently the longest serving team member of The Base.

Sarah Wilkinson is the Commissioner of the Division of Occupational Licensure. Her agency oversees the Massachusetts State Athletic Commission. She is a lifelong athlete competing as a Division I swimmer. As an adult, she has competed in weightlifting, softball, and coached youth soccer.

Subcommittees

In developing its recommendations, the Youth Sports Working Group established three subcommittees that considered different aspects of youth sports.

Subcommittee on Children and the Public Sector's Role in Education, Data, Health and Safety.

This subcommittee had jurisdiction over the mental and physical health of children; safety and risks from overspecialization; season length and content; education and public service announcements; and data collection.

Subcommittee on Coaches, Officials and the Public Sector's Role in Licensing Individuals.

This subcommittee had jurisdiction over minimum standards and codes of conduct; training requirements, resources and certifications and licensure; data sharing among leagues; and the treatment of officials and coaches.

Subcommittee on Parents, Money in Sports and Facilities.

This subcommittee had jurisdiction over private equity and increases in cost; parental pressures, including time, money and their children's future; sports' return on investment and college expectations; licensing of businesses and for-profit associations; non-profit preferences for facilities; permit and facility ownership; public sector investment, infrastructure and promotion; and vulnerable populations and socioeconomic barriers.

Meetings

The Youth Sports Working Group held its first meeting on October 10, 2025, with additional full Working Group meetings held on November 25, 2025, December 4, 2025, and April 7, 2026.

The Subcommittee on Children and the Public Sector's Role in Education, Data, Health and Safety held its first meeting on December 4, 2025, with additional meetings held on January 22, 2026, and February 19, 2026.

The Subcommittee on Coaches, Officials and the Public Sector's Role in Licensing Individuals held its first meeting on December 4, 2025, with additional meetings held on January 20, 2026, and February 19, 2026.

The Subcommittee on Parents, Money in Sports and Facilities held its first meeting on December 4, 2025, with additional meetings held on February 9, 2026, and May 14, 2026.

Hearings

As part of its statutory charge, the Youth Sports Working Group was required to hold 3 public hearings.

First Hearing

The first public hearing, held on January 27, 2026, took place at the Division of Occupational Licensure's main office at 1 Federal Street in Boston.

Rob Holliday, Executive Director of Massachusetts Youth Soccer. Executive Director Holliday spoke to the structure of his organization, their coaching certification process and the difficulty Mass Soccer faces in retaining officials due to poor spectator behavior. Executive Director Holliday's recommendations included laws regarding abuse of officials.

Mary Ayotte, President, and Kevin Barney, Executive Director of Massachusetts Youth Lacrosse. President Ayotte and Executive Director Barney spoke to their organization's structure, their coaching certification process, the financial barriers that their organizations face, including buying equipment, as well as the difficulty of reliably securing fields and getting players to stay with their teams.

Tom Spangenberg, Chair Emeritus of Massachusetts Youth Lacrosse. Chair Spangenberg advocated for a return to the town and community, non-profit youth sports model. He concluded that cost is the biggest enemy of growing youth sports and asked the members to investigate if it is possible to lower the cost of running CORIs.

Second Hearing

The second public hearing, held on April 27, 2026, took place at MassWildlife's Field Headquarters in Westborough.

Sharon Locke, Legislative Representative of Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association. Legislative Representative Locke spoke about her organization's efforts to expand access to participation and reduce barriers, including cost.

Dr. Robert M. Colandreo, Co-Chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee of the Athletic Trainers of Massachusetts. Dr. Colandreo discussed the importance of having athletic trainers in all high schools and youth safety. In particular, he recommended that every venue and game have an emergency action plan, discussed medical coverage at facilities and noted that current concussion laws are limited to schools.

Chris Lynch, Mission Play Consulting. Mr. Lynch discussed his work in the City of Boston, where he works to share best practices among youth sports coalitions, and with the Lawrence Sports Alliance. Mr. Lynch discussed raising access for all youth, especially in high-need communities.

Mary Ayotte, President of Massachusetts Youth Lacrosse. President Ayotte was joined by board members and members of the operations team. They discussed the challenge of seventh and eighth graders getting pulled up to high school teams, which leaves youth teams without enough players and creates safety concerns as well as undermines the experience of playing.

Third Hearing

The third public hearing, held on May 21, 2026, took place at the State House in Boston. The hearing was attended by members of the public but none wished to comment.

Written Testimony

Eric Montague. In written testimony submitted on May 28, 2026, Mr. Montague advocated for a minimum requirement for on-site medical staffing standards for commercial youth sports tournaments during competition.

Disclaimer

The Youth Sports Working Group is an independent special commission, and its recommendations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Healey-Driscoll Administration, the Division of Occupational Licensure, the Massachusetts State Athletic Commission, individual Working Group members or their appointing authorities.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1 – Establishing a State Agency to Oversee Youth Sports

Summary

The Subcommittee recommends that a new state agency be established to oversee youth sports.

Explanation

There is currently no state agency that oversees youth sports in the Commonwealth. The result is a patchwork of oversight shared among state and local governments, as well as a host of businesses, leagues and organizations operating under varying state and national umbrella organizations.

A new state agency with dedicated oversight and the necessary expertise would establish needed oversight of various aspects of youth sports. Some areas of focus would be training of officials and coaches, safety protocols for participants and encouraging a participant-first mentality for youth sports.

Perhaps most importantly, a state agency that is committed to youth sports would ensure that all youth athletes have access to safe and well-run programs. A child's socioeconomic status should not determine whether he or she can play sports, but it all too often does. Supporting the patchwork of youth sports programs with one agency that could coordinate investment and harness expertise would serve all youth athletes, their families and their communities.

Proposal

Unlike the recommendations that follow, the Working Group does not propose specific language establishing the new agency because the considerations involved in creating such an entity are separate from the Working Group's mission of studying youth sports.

Nonetheless, the Working Group does recommend a general structure – an independent agency, similar to the Gaming Commission. The agency should be overseen by individuals with particular expertise, including one person with experience in law enforcement or with Title IX. The Working Group also recommends that there be a single Commissioner or Executive Director to oversee the day-to-day operations of the agency.

The Working Group also recommends that there be an advisory board made up of youth sports experts who can provide input into the agency's work.

The agency should be required to prepare an annual report of its activities, collect data from youth sports organizations and provide resources and guidance, including properly reporting abuse to the proper authorities.

In addition, the Working Group recommends that the new agency implement and oversee the regulatory recommendations that follow.

Recommendation 2 – Licensure of Coaches and Officials

Summary

The Subcommittee recommends that youth sports coaches and officials be licensed by the Commonwealth.

Explanation

Centralization

Currently, there is no statewide entity that oversees the qualifications and actions of youth sports coaches or officials. The result is varying and overlapping requirements for required training and certification, sometimes requiring coaches to take the same training more than once in order to participate in more than one organization. By centralizing oversight over coaches and officials through licensure, there would be one agency tasked with administering background checks for all youth sports organizations, reducing duplicative work for organizations and the coaches and officials themselves.

Statewide oversight will also eliminate the patchwork oversight present in the current system, limiting the ability of a coach or official to be disciplined by one organization and simply begin working for another. A statewide licensing system will serve as an important resource for youth sports organizations to know that the person with whom they are working is in good standing.

Background Checks

Current Massachusetts law requires youth sports organizations to conduct criminal offender record information (CORI) checks for its employees and volunteers,⁸ but checks are currently administered by individual youth sports organizations, creating an administrative burden for small organizations and duplicative requirements for individuals who participate in more than one role. In addition, there is no requirement that sex offender registry information (SORI) be checked, although many organizations do so.⁹ Taking the administrative burden from individual organizations and requiring SORI checks across the board will facilitate and enhance existing the existing background check system.

⁸ GL c. 6, s. 172H.

⁹ For two examples, see Massachusetts Youth Soccer, *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Adult Registration*, June 2025, PDF, [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\): Adult Registration](#); and Sharon Youth Baseball and Softball Association, “Child Protection Program,” accessed June 7, 2026, [Child Protection Program](#).

Licensee Discipline

Licensing will also create clear accountability for coaches and officials who act inappropriately, establishing a process for discipline including fines, additional training, license suspension and ultimately license revocation. Any discipline will be the result of a formal process that will ensure that complaints are taken seriously, investigations are handled professionally and discipline is issued when necessary. It will also ensure consistency, establishing a baseline for behavior across the Commonwealth.

Proposal

The Youth Sports Working Group recommends that youth sports coaches and officials be required to be licensed in order for them to coach or officiate in the Commonwealth. As part of the licensing system, the agency would maintain a licensing database of coaches and officials and a licensee's status would be available to the public on the licensing agency's website.

The agency would also have broad authority to establish and enforce licensing requirements. In developing its legislative recommendation, the Working Group looked to Chapter 112, which DOL and the Department of Public Health use for enforcement of board licenses. This chapter served as a helpful model but the Working Group is open to other structures so long as they are comprehensive and effective.

As part of the licensing requirement, the Working Group recommends that all licensees be subject to CORI and SORI checks prior to their being licensed. Incorporating the CORI requirement into a licensing regime will eliminate redundancy for individuals who participate in more than one organization, remove the burden from the youth sports organizations – allowing them to focus on their mission – and ensure that such checks take place for anyone in the Commonwealth who is involved in youth sports.

The Working Group understands that licensure could be a barrier to entry for some coaches and officials and recommends that the agency that oversees licensing have discretion to create exemptions from the licensure requirement. Potential exemptions could include reducing or eliminating requirements for certain very small leagues, for example.

The draft legislation provided below are adapted from G.L. c. 112, which governs DOL boards of registration. They are provided to offer a potential model from which the legislature can work in establishing its own licensing regime.

Recommendation 3 – Minimum Training and Certifications for Coaches and Officials

Summary

The Subcommittee recommends that youth sports coaches and officials meet minimum training and certification requirements in order to coach or officiate in the Commonwealth.

Explanation

An essential part of the licensing requirement in Recommendation 2 is required minimum training for coaches and officials. Currently, individual organizations have discretion to require training and many do, but there is a patchwork of requirements and, as with CORI checks, redundancy – an individual may have to take the same training to volunteer for multiple teams.

In addition, establishing a statewide minimum for training would ensure that all coaches and officials are equipped with the training necessary to meet the needs of youth athletes. Nothing in this recommendation would prohibit individual organizations from requiring training above the minimum requirements.

In developing regulations, training requirements, and best practices for youth sports coaches, the Commonwealth should conscientiously consider utilizing SHAPE America's National Standards for Sport Coaches as the benchmark for establishing evidence-based, athlete-centered coaching competencies that promote safety, positive youth development, physical literacy, ethical conduct, and long-term athlete success.

Proposal

Every coach and official who participates in youth sports would be required to meet minimum standards for training and certification. The licensing agency would have discretion to establish requirements. The Working Group recommends requiring training relative to bias, concussions, player safety and abuse as a minimum.

Leagues would be able to establish additional requirements beyond training required by the Commonwealth and the agency would allow licensees to upload all trainings to the database, which would be accessible across leagues. This would allow leagues to confirm what training a person has taken, obviating the need to take duplicative training for different leagues.

Recommendation 4 – Registration of Youth Sports Leagues

Summary

The Subcommittee recommends that youth sports leagues be able to access and update a voluntary registry to share information on discipline imposed by different leagues.

Explanation

Currently, individual youth sports organizations impose discipline on participants and spectators, but it is a patchwork effort with varied procedures across leagues. And even when a league is able to impose discipline, even going as far as banning an individual from league activities, there is no mechanism for that information to be shared with other leagues. The result is that a parent or fan who is disciplined by one league can easily become involved in another.

By establishing a central registry participating organizations can prevent problems from being repeated – this is particularly true for offenders accused of unsafe behavior like harassment or threats. Youth sports organizations would be able to make informed decisions, building a more comprehensive safety net across youth sports.

Further, disciplinary processes can vary widely. The Working Group recommends that the discipline process remain at the league level. A state agency overseeing a registry, however, would be in a position to establish model processes and, therefore, help establish consistency and fairness concerning discipline.

It is essential that safeguards be established on the registry, including ensuring that participating organizations meet high standards for disciplinary processes, that information is kept confidential, and that there are processes in place for people to have their names removed from the registry, as appropriate. These are concerns that the Working Group takes seriously.

By carefully collecting and maintaining this information and ensuring that youth sports organizations meet clear requirements when imposing discipline, a registry will improve safety and accountability for players, parents and spectators alike.

Proposal

The Youth Sports Working Group recommends that the state establish and maintain a voluntary registry for youth sports organizations to upload records of individuals who are disciplined by a league for misbehavior. The Working Group recommends that the information collected be strictly limited, that it be kept as confidential as possible and that procedures be implemented to ensure that privacy and due process are maintained.

The Working Group also recommends that there be a model disciplinary process that participating organizations would be required to follow, ensuring that reasonable disciplinary protocols are in place to ensure the integrity and effectiveness of the registry.

Recommendation 5 – Code of Conduct

Summary

The Subcommittee recommends that the Commonwealth establish a model code of conduct for youth sports organizations to follow.

Explanation

Currently, many youth sports organizations in Massachusetts have Codes of Conduct that athletes, parents, volunteers and spectators are required to follow.¹⁰ But as with other recommendations, there are varying standards and enforcement mechanisms.

By establishing a statewide model code of conduct, individual organizations can establish a clear and consistent expectations for behavior across the Commonwealth.

Codes of conduct are essential parts of the youth sports infrastructure because they make clear what is expected and what will not be tolerated. By doing so, they build a culture that supports the wellbeing of youth athletes. And a published code can give witnesses a process to report violations and organizations the structure needed to respond to them.

Establishing a model code of conduct – as opposed to a required code of conduct – also gives organizations the ability to build on a solid foundation while customizing it to account for the particulars of a sport, an age group or a community.

Proposal

This proposal would require the Commonwealth to create a model code of conduct establishing minimum standards for coaches, officials, parents, players and other individuals involved in youth sports.

The proposed code of conduct would be a floor establishing expectations. Individual youth sports leagues would be able to establish higher or more specific requirements appropriate to their own circumstances.

The proposal would also require parents, players and coaches to sign the code of conduct, acknowledging receipt of it. The organizations would be required to maintain a signed copy during an individual's involvement with the organization.

¹⁰ For two examples, see Massachusetts Youth Soccer, “Codes of Conduct,” accessed June 7, 2026, [Codes of Conduct](#); and Massachusetts Youth Lacrosse, “Player and Parent Code of Conduct,” accessed June 7, 2026, [Player and Parent Code of Conduct](#).

Recommendation 6 – Heightened Penalties for Assault and Battery of Coaches and Officials

Summary

The Subcommittee recommends that there be heightened penalties for assault and battery of coaches and officials.

Explanation

Threats and physical attacks on youth sports coaches and officials are a growing concern across the country¹¹ and in the Commonwealth.¹² Navigating hostile parents and spectators is affecting these vocations, deterring people from coaching and officiating or driving people from the roles due to fear and burnout.

By increasing penalties for assault and battery on coaches and officials, the Commonwealth will send a clear message to officials and coaches that they have the support of their community. Increased penalties should create a deterrent for bad behavior as well as set a minimum punishment for this behavior.

Coaches and officials are central to youth sports and are too easily made a target of another person's frustration in an emotionally-charged environment. Further, coaches and officials are often required to make difficult decisions. These are not excuses for violence – they are reasons why coaches and officials need additional protection.

People who love sports should not be afraid to volunteer and give back due to a fear of harassment or violence. And no one, especially youth athletes, should be exposed to this kind of behavior.

Proposal

This proposal would establish minimum penalty of 90 days of incarceration and a minimum fine of \$500 for assault and battery on a youth sports coach or official. This proposal mirrors a recent act of the General Court establishing similar minimum penalties for assault and battery on transit workers.¹³

¹¹ Michael Popke, "Violence Against Youth Sports Officials Escalates Shortage Crisis," *Sports Destination Management*, April 22nd, 2022, [Violence Against Youth Sports Officials Escalates Shortage Crisis](#).

¹² Dan Reidy, "Physical and verbal assaults on officials threatening the future of youth sports," *Spectrum News 1 Massachusetts*, January 17, 2025, [Physical and verbal assaults on officials threatening the future of youth sports](#).

¹³ Chapter 79 of the Acts of 2025.

Recommendation 7 – Regulatory Authority Over Youth Sports Activity Timing and Season Length

Summary

The Subcommittee recommends that the Commonwealth have regulatory authority over the length and the timing and duration of youth sports activities.

Explanation

Currently, there is no oversight of how often, or when, youth athletes play a particular sport, even as concerns about specialization grow.¹⁴ By establishing regulatory authority, the Commonwealth will be able to implement standards that protect the health and wellbeing of youth athletes. This includes preventing injuries due to overuse, preventing the loss of enjoyment that leads to kids quitting and encouraging a healthy sports-life balance.

Proposal

This proposal would grant the Commonwealth regulatory authority to set maximum participation hours per youth sport in a defined period of time, as well as duration and start times. The regulations could take factors like age into account when establishing limits for a season or practice time.

This proposal would not establish any particular limit or requirement, however; it would establish the authority to do so, but allow for the development of standards that account for the particular circumstances of certain sports, ages and athletes.

¹⁴ For two examples, see National Federation of State High School Associations Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, *Sport Specialization Position Statement* (Indianapolis, IN: National Federation of State High School Associations, April 2023), [Sport Specialization Position Statement](#); and Jon Solomon, “Project Play Survey: Parents Justify Sport Specialization So Their Child Can Play in High School,” *Project Play*, April 29th, 2025, [Project Play Survey: Parents Justify Sport Specialization So Their Child Can Play in High School](#).

Recommendation 8 – Education and Awareness Campaigns

Summary

The Subcommittee recommends that the Commonwealth conduct education and awareness campaigns.

Explanation

Education is central to addressing a number of issues that arise in the youth sports context, from the health of athletes to the behavior of spectators to the expectations of parents. By establishing education and awareness campaigns, the Commonwealth can inform behavior before problems arise and improve the youth sports experience for everyone.

This effort is particularly important for parents, who in some cases are driving the professionalization of youth sports that can negatively impact their children in the hopes of collegiate or professional success.¹⁵ By publicly explaining the realities of youth sports, the Commonwealth can focus attention on what youth sports can and cannot do.

Proposal

This proposal would require the Commonwealth to conduct public education and awareness campaigns for players, parents, coaches and the public. Required topics would include players' physical and mental health, the potential of a college or professional career in sports, and expectations for behavior. These campaigns would also highlight how to coach effectively, inclusivity and recruitment of individuals from underrepresented groups.

¹⁵ Youth Sports Business Report, "One in Six Parents Expect Their Child to Become a Pro Athlete, New BSN Survey Reveals," November 13, 2025, [One in Six Parents Expect Their Child to Become a Pro Athlete, New BSN Survey Reveals](#).

Recommendation 9 – Health and Safety Protocols

Summary

The Subcommittee recommends that youth sports organizations be subject to injury and health risk protocol requirements.

Explanation

Currently, the Department of Public Health establishes protocols for concussions and other head injuries for school-based sports in the Commonwealth.¹⁶ DPH's program includes prevention and management of concussions, as well as training and technical assistance, and extends only to school sponsored activities. The Working Group recommends extending protocols to non-school sports and establishing a basis for protocols to address other injuries, as well as additional health risks. Other risks include health impacts that stem from heat and other weather-related factors. Heat, for example, can cause serious illness and even death from heat stroke or exhaustion.¹⁷

By giving the Commonwealth the authority to establish required protocols, parents, coaches and leagues can get the education they need, know the protocols to follow, and better protect children from avoidable harm.

Proposal

This proposal would require the Commonwealth to establish safety standards for youth sports organizations. These would include protocols for injuries and health risks like heat and other weather-caused issues.

Protocols that would be established include standards for documenting and tracking injuries and health impacts caused by identified health risks, a process for reporting injuries and health impacts by a youth sports organization, a process for a player to return to play after an incident and training for coaches, parents and players.

¹⁶ Massachusetts Department of Public Health, "Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries," Commonwealth of Massachusetts, accessed June 7, 2026, [Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries](#).

¹⁷ Jessica R. Murfree and Natasha Brison, "How extreme heat affects young athletes," *PBS NewsHour*, July 20, 2022, [How extreme heat affects young athletes](#).

Recommendation 10 – Recording Must be Permitted

Summary

The Subcommittee recommends that no youth sports organization or facility be able to ban the recording youth sports events.

Explanation

One of the most immediately felt effects of private equity's presence in youth sports is efforts to ban recording of youth sport games in order to drive traffic to paid platforms showing those contests.¹⁸ The problem has even been felt by United States Senator Chris Murphy, who has introduced legislation to address private equity in youth sports as well as seen the effects of the ban on recording firsthand.¹⁹

Remembering and sharing a child's game is an overwhelming positive for a family. It can give a child a sense of support and build bonds connecting generations. Denying that in order to force supporters to a for-profit streaming service is not consistent with the values of the Commonwealth.

Proposal

This proposal would ban every facility and organization in the Commonwealth from prohibiting the recording a youth sports event.

¹⁸ Luke Goldstein, "Wall Street Is Paywalling Your Kids' Sports," *The Lever*, November 18, 2025, [Wall Street Is Paywalling Your Kids' Sports](#).

¹⁹ Chris Murphy, "My Son's Hockey Team and the Crisis of American Resentment," *The Atlantic*, May 20, 2026, [My Son's Hockey Team and the Crisis of American Resentment](#).

Recommendation 11 – Access to Public Grant Funding

Summary

The Subcommittee recommends that the Commonwealth establish a grant funding program for youth organizations and facilities to access low to zero interest capital funding if certain benchmarks for Youth Sports program are met.

Explanation

The growth of private club sports has mirrored the decline in high school and local sports programs, and nowhere is this felt more strongly than when it comes to access to facilities – including ice hockey rinks in Massachusetts.²⁰ There is increased competition for fields and rinks, often leaving municipal programs left behind.²¹ Privatization and professionalism is not a recipe for success, however. This is shown in the data as Minnesota continues to lead the country in hockey success in part because of its community-owned rinks.²²

By establishing a mechanism for youth organizations to access funding, the Commonwealth can help support community sports that are more accessible for everyone.

Proposal

This proposal would require the Commonwealth to work across state agencies, including quasi-government agencies – to increase funding opportunities for facilities and organizations who run youth sports programs.

These funds would be distributed through a grant program with requirements governing eligible uses of the funds.

The agency should have a focus on ensuring equitable access.

²⁰ Matt Porter, “Boys’ high school hockey is ‘having an existential crisis.’ It starts with the rinks,” *Boston Globe*, March 5, 2025, [Boys’ high school hockey is ‘having an existential crisis.’ It starts with the rinks.](#)

²¹ *Youth Sports Business Report*, “Field Equity in Youth Sports: Solving the Municipal Resource Crisis,” April 10, 2025, [Field Equity in Youth Sports: Solving the Municipal Resource Crisis.](#)

²² Drew Herron, “The Golden Age: How the Minnesota Community Hockey Model Makes Hockey Affordable, Inclusive, and Effective,” *Minnesota Hockey*, October 28th, 2025, [The Golden Age: How the Minnesota Community Hockey Model Makes Hockey Affordable, Inclusive, and Effective.](#)

Appendix A – Enabling Statute

SECTION 305. (a) There shall be a special working group on youth sports to conduct an investigation and study of the current state of youth sports. The working group shall study and make recommendations relative to the regulation of youth sports, including, but not limited to: (i) maximum participation hours per youth sport in a defined period of time; (ii) licensing of businesses and coaches, including licensing fees and the conditions under which any such licensing fee may be waived to promote access to participation; and (iii) standards for player safety, including concussion protocols and athletic trainer requirements. The working group shall conduct not less than 3 public hearings.

(b) The working group shall consist of: the chair of the state athletic commission, who shall serve as chair of the working group; 2 members appointed by the president of the senate; 2 members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 1 member appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; and 7 members appointed by the governor who shall have experience and expertise in youth sports. Members of the working group shall not be compensated for their service.

(c) The working group shall report to the general court and to the state athletic commission the results of its investigation and study and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of regulations to be promulgated by the commission and legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the commission, the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the joint committee on economic development and emerging technologies and the joint committee on health care financing not later than 120 days after the third public hearing conducted by the working group.

Appendix B – Draft Legislation

Recommendation 1 – Establishing a State Agency to Oversee Youth Sports

Unlike the recommendations that follow, the Working Group did not develop draft legislation to establish a commission to oversee youth sports given the number of considerations that go into establishing a state agency. The Working Group looked to [Bill S.300](#) as a general model to establish an independent commission but defers to the legislature on the exact mechanics of establishing that independent commission.

Recommendation 2 – Licensure of Coaches and Officials

Section X. (a) No person shall serve as a: (i) coach or other person who manages a team for a youth sports organization; or (ii) referee or other official for a game or contest for a youth sports organization, without a license issued by the agency.

(b) A person may apply to the agency for a license to serve as a coach or official, or to renew such a license on a form established by the agency. The application shall be accompanied by a fee, the amount of which shall be determined by the secretary of administration and finance pursuant to section 3B of chapter 7.

(c) Notwithstanding section 172 of chapter 6 or any other general or special law to the contrary, the agency shall obtain: (i) all available criminal offender record information as defined in section 167 of said chapter 6 from the department of criminal justice information services; and (ii) all available sex offender registry information from the sex offender registry board, for all applicants for licensure pursuant to this section. The agency shall not disseminate the information for any purpose other than for the determination of suitability of the applicant for licensure to participate in youth sports.

(d) (1) The agency shall establish minimum standards for licensure. The minimum standards shall include, but not be limited to, required training and certifications including, but not limited to, training relative to bias, concussions, player safety and abuse. The agency may adapt or credit training and certifications created by other state agencies or third parties to establish training requirements.

(2) Youth sports organizations may establish additional standards, including, but not limited to, additional training or certifications, for coaches and licensees. The agency shall provide for the submission of any such additional training or certifications by licensees and the sharing of such additional training or certifications among youth sports organizations.

(e) The agency shall maintain a database of licensed coaches and officials. The database shall be available on the agency's website and include each licensee's license status.

(f)(1) Except as otherwise provided by law, the agency, after a hearing, may suspend, revoke or cancel any license if it appears to the agency that the licensee is incapacitated by reason of mental illness or is guilty of deceit, malpractice, gross misconduct in their coaching or officiating, or of any offense against the laws of the commonwealth relating thereto. Any person

whose license is so suspended or revoked shall also be liable to such other punishment as may be provided by law.

(2) The agency may discipline a licensee if it is determined, after a consent agreement between the parties or after an opportunity for an adjudicatory proceeding conducted pursuant to chapter 30A, that the licensee has:

- (i) engaged in conduct which places into question the licensee's competence to coach or officiate including, but not limited to: (A) gross misconduct; (B) coaching or officiating fraudulently; (C) coaching or officiating beyond the authorized scope of the license; (D) coaching or officiating with gross incompetence; or (E) coaching or officiating with negligence on 1 or more than 1 occasion;
- (ii) engaged in coaching or officiating while impaired by alcohol or drugs;
- (iii) violated any law, rule or regulation governing coaching or officiating;
- (iv) been convicted of a criminal offense which is reasonably related to coaching or officiating;
- (v) engaged in dishonesty, fraud or deceit that is reasonably related to coaching or officiating;
- (vi) knowingly permitted, aided or abetted an unlicensed person in coaching or officiating; or
- (vii) had a license, issued by another state or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, or a foreign state or nation with authority to issue such a license, revoked, cancelled, suspended, not renewed or otherwise acted against, or if the licensee has been disciplined, if the basis for the action would constitute a basis for disciplinary action in the commonwealth.

(3) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the agency may, after a consent agreement between the parties or after an opportunity for an adjudicatory proceeding conducted pursuant to chapter 30A, upon determination made that the licensee is subject to discipline based on any provision enumerated in this section, undertake 1 or more of the following actions:

- (i) suspend, revoke, cancel, decline to renew or place on probation such license;
- (ii) reprimand or censure a licensee;
- (iii) assess upon the licensee a civil administrative penalty, as determined by the agency, not to exceed \$100 for a first violation; \$500 for a second violation; \$1,500 for a third violation; or \$2,500 for a fourth or subsequent violation;
- (iv) require the licensee to complete additional education and training as a condition of retention or future consideration of reinstatement of the license;
- (v) require the licensee to practice under appropriate supervision for a period of time as determined by the agency as a condition of retention or future consideration of reinstatement of the license;
- (vi) require the licensee to participate in an alcohol or drug rehabilitation program as a condition of retention or future consideration of reinstatement of the license.

(4) Nothing in this section shall limit the agency's authority to impose such reasonable sanctions as it deems appropriate after a hearing or by a consent agreement. A person sanctioned under this section shall be subject to such other sanctions or punishment provided by law.

(5) The agency, if it appears after a hearing that a statement in an application to it for licensure, which is required to be under oath or affirmation or to contain or be verified by a written declaration that it is made under penalties of perjury, is false and known to the applicant to be false, shall refuse to grant or issue or shall revoke or cancel such license. The provisions of this paragraph shall not affect, but shall be in addition to, any other penalty provided by law.

(g)(1) Whoever continues to coach or officiate after their license to do so has been suspended, revoked or cancelled and while such disability continues, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$2,500 or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the agency may, after a consent agreement between the parties or after an opportunity for an adjudicatory proceeding held pursuant to chapter 30A, assess and collect a civil administrative penalty of not more than \$1,000 for the first violation and not more than \$2,500 for a second or subsequent violation upon a person who coaches or officiates at a time when their license to do so has been suspended, revoked or cancelled and upon any person who knowingly coaches or officiates at a time when their license to do so has expired; provided, however, that if a licensee has, in accordance with any law and with agency regulations, made timely and sufficient application for a renewal, the license shall not expire until the application has been finally determined by the agency; provided further, that prior to the assessment of a civil administrative penalty under this section, the agency shall notify the licensee that the licensee has at least 90 days after the date of expiration within which to submit an application for renewal during which time the agency shall waive any applicable penalties pursuant to this paragraph. An assessment of a civil administrative penalty under this subsection shall bar a subsequent imposition of a criminal penalty for the same violation and an imposition of a criminal penalty under this subsection shall bar a subsequent assessment of a civil administrative penalty for the same violation.

(3) The agency may apply to the appropriate court for an order enjoining the unlicensed coaching or officiating or for an order for payment of an assessed penalty or for such other relief as may be appropriate to enforce this section.

(h) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the agency may, after a consent agreement between the parties or after an opportunity for an adjudicatory proceeding held pursuant to chapter 30A, assess and collect a civil administrative penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for the first violation and a civil administrative penalty not to exceed \$2,500 for a second or subsequent violation upon a person who, without holding the required license, engages in coaching or officiating for which a license is required. Nothing in this section shall affect, restrict, diminish or limit any other penalty or remedy provided by law. The agency may apply to the appropriate court for an order enjoining the unlicensed coaching or officiating or for an order for payment of an assessed penalty or for such other relief as may be appropriate to enforce this section.

(i) The agency may suspend or refuse to renew a license, pending a hearing on the merits of the allegation against the licensee, if the licensee's continued coaching or officiating poses an

immediate and serious threat to the public health, safety or welfare. The agency shall hold a hearing pursuant to chapter 30A on the necessity for the suspension or refusal to renew within 10 days of that action. At the time of the suspension or refusal to renew, the agency shall issue to the licensee a written summary suspension order which specifies the findings of the agency and the reasons for its summary suspension and the date, time and place of the 10-day hearing. At the request of the licensee, the agency may reschedule the hearing to a date and time mutually agreeable to the agency and the licensee. Any such rescheduling of the hearing granted at the licensee's request shall not operate to lift or stay the summary suspension order. If the hearing is not held within 10 days of the agency's summary suspension order or such further time as may be agreed to, the license shall be reinstated. At the adjudicatory hearing on the necessity for summary suspension, the agency shall, by a preponderance of the evidence, establish why the summary suspension order should continue in effect pending the final disposition of the complaint. The agency shall issue a preliminary written decision within 10 days of the summary suspension hearing. Following the hearing, a continuing suspension imposed by the agency shall remain in effect until the conclusion of any formal adjudicatory proceeding on the merits of the allegations against the licensee, but any such proceeding shall occur within 60 days of the summary suspension order, or as the parties may otherwise agree. The agency shall render its written decision not later than 30 days after the formal adjudicatory proceeding or as the parties may otherwise agree. A licensee subject to a disciplinary action pursuant to this section may seek judicial review of the agency's final decision pursuant to chapter 30A. The division, after proper notice and hearings, shall adopt rules and regulations governing the summary suspension procedure authorized by this section. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit the agency's summary suspension authority.

(j) The agency shall promulgate regulations to implement this section. These regulations may include, but shall not be limited to: (i) exemptions from licensure for certain categories of coaches or officials, including, but not limited to, exemptions based on the size of a youth sports organization; and (ii) the collection and dissemination of training and certification documentation.

Recommendation 3 – Minimum Training and Certifications for Coaches and Officials

See subsection (d) in Recommendation 2.

Recommendation 4 – Registration of Youth Sports Leagues

Section X. (a) The agency shall establish and maintain a registry of youth sports organizations in the commonwealth. The registry shall maintain: (i) an index of discipline information provided by youth sports organizations regarding parents and other individuals who have been subject to discipline by the youth sports organization; provided, however, that discipline information collected by the agency shall be limited to: (A) the name of the individual subject to discipline; (B) the name of the youth sports organization involved; (C) the game or other event at which the action that led to discipline took place; and (D) the discipline imposed; provided further, that the database shall not include information relative to a disciplinary matter that resulted in dismissal. The agency shall establish a form for use by youth sports organizations to submit the discipline information to the agency.

(b)(1) Access to the registry shall be provided to youth sports organizations that voluntarily register with the agency. Registration shall be voluntary and a youth sports organization may terminate its participation in the registry at any time pursuant to proper notification to the agency. The agency may revoke a youth sports organization's access to the registry if the organization does not comply with applicable requirements.

(2) The agency shall establish minimum requirements that a youth sports organization shall meet to access the registry. Such minimum standards shall include, but not be limited to: (i) required information that the youth sports organization shall report to the agency; (ii) implementation of and compliance with the agency's model enforcement process established in regulation; and (iii) any other standard established by the agency.

(c) The agency shall promulgate regulations to implement this section. These regulations shall include, but not be limited to: (i) standards for access to, and maintenance of the confidentiality of, information by youth sports organizations; (ii) a model enforcement process for use by organizations when addressing misbehavior by a parent or other individual; and (iii) a process for a parent or other individual to be notified that their name has been added to the registry and a process for a parent or individual to have their name removed from the registry.

Recommendation 5 – Code of Conduct

Section X. (a)(1) Every youth sports organization shall adopt a code of conduct to establish minimum standards for coaches, officials, parents, players and other individuals involved in the organization's activities. Every code of conduct shall contain the model code of conduct established pursuant to subsection (b); provided, however, that a youth sports organization may include additional standards that are consistent with the model code of conduct.

(2) Every youth sports organization shall provide a copy of their code of conduct to every coach, parent, player and other individual involved in the organization's activities. Each such individual shall be required to acknowledge receipt of the code of conduct and the organization shall keep a record of the acknowledgement for the duration of the individual's involvement with the organization.

(b)(1) The agency shall establish a model code of conduct to establish minimum requirements for coaches, officials, parents, players and other individuals involved in youth sports. The model code of conduct shall include, but not be limited to:

- (i) A list of prohibited conduct;
- (ii) the process for reporting an act of prohibited conduct to the organization; and
- (iii) any other standards of behavior for coaches, officials, parents, players and other individuals established by the agency.

(2) The agency may establish multiple codes of conduct for coaches, officials, parents, players and other individuals as necessary to reflect the particulars of their roles.

(c) The agency shall establish a model reporting process for coaches, officials, parents, players and other individuals to report prohibited conduct to a youth sports organization.

(d) The agency shall require that the model code of conduct be posted at sports fields, arenas and other areas where youth sports take place. A sports field, arena or other area may post the particular codes of conduct of the youth sports organizations that use the sports field, arena or other area.

(e) The agency shall promulgate regulations to implement this section.

Recommendation 6 – Heightened Penalties for Assault and Battery of Coaches and Officials

Section X. Whoever commits an assault or battery or both upon any youth sports coach or youth sports official when the coach or official is engaged in the performance of their duties, or at any other time if the assault or assault and battery arises from the performance of the duties of the coach or official, shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than 90 days nor more than 2½ years in a house of correction or by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$5,000, or both such fine and imprisonment.

Recommendation 7 – Regulatory Authority Over Youth Sports Activity Timing and Season Length

Section X. The agency shall promulgate regulations related to participation in and the administration of youth sports in the commonwealth. Regulations may include, but shall not be limited to, maximum participation hours per youth sport in a defined period of time including, but not limited to, the length of youth sport seasons, the timing of tryouts and the time of day and duration of youth sports activities.

Recommendation 8 – Education and Awareness Campaigns

Section X. (a) The agency shall conduct public education and awareness campaigns regarding youth sports for players, parents, coaches and other members of the public.

(b) Campaigns shall include, but not be limited to: (i) player physical and mental health including, but not limited to, risks of injury, hydration, matters of single sport specialization, overuse and appropriate training amounts; (ii) the relationship between youth sports participation and higher education or career outcomes, including how many youth athletes become professional athletes; (iii) education for coaches about coaching effectively, including educational stages of learning; (iv) inclusion for children with special needs and other particularized circumstances; (v) public awareness of how individuals should behave when engaging in or observing youth sports; and (vi) encouraging and recruiting coaches from underrepresented populations.

Recommendation 9 – Health and Safety Protocols

Section X. (a) The agency shall establish safety standards for youth sports organizations, including, but not limited to, protocols for injuries and health risks. Health risks shall include, but not be limited to, heat exposure and other weather-related risks that may impact a person's health.

(b) Protocols for injuries and health risks shall include, but not be limited to, documenting and tracking injuries and health impacts caused by identified health risks, a process for reporting injuries and health impacts caused by identified health risks within a youth sports organization, a process for a player to return to play after an injury or a health impact caused by identified health risks and training on injuries and health risks for coaches, parents and players.

Recommendation 10 – Recording Must be Permitted

Section X. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, no facility or organization shall prohibit a parent or family member from recording a youth sports event.

Recommendation 11 – Access to Public Grant Funding

Section X. The agency shall work across state government, including, but not limited to, quasi-state agencies, to increase funding opportunities and establish a grant funding program, including access to low to zero interest capital funding, for facilities and organizations who run youth sports programs. The funds shall be eligible to be spent on new construction, facility upgrades, equipment or other needs as the agency determines based on its findings, with particular attention to equitable access.