

5:17-1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2002 **CHAPTER:** 74

NJSA: 5:17-1 (Athletic codes of conduct)

BILL NO: A446 (Substituted for S1122)

SPONSOR(S): Pre-filed

DATE INTRODUCED: January 8, 2002

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Law and Public Safety

SENATE: Law and Public Safety

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** June 24, 2002

SENATE: June 20, 2002

DATE OF APPROVAL: August 25, 2002

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

[FINAL TEXT OF BILL](#) (1st reprint enacted)
(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

A446

[SPONSORS STATEMENT](#): (Begins on page 3 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** [Yes](#)

SENATE: [Yes](#)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

S1122

[SPONSORS STATEMENT](#): (Begins on page 3 of original bill) [Yes](#)
Bill and Sponsors Statement identical to A446

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: [Yes](#)
Identical to Senate Statement for A446

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

[GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING](#): [Yes](#)

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext. 103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS:

No

HEARINGS:

No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

Yes

"Parents could face penalty box," 8-26-2002 The Record, p.A3

"Conduct at youth sports targeted," 8-26-2002 Home News, p.A1

"Sports rage bill signed into law," 8-26-2002 The Times, p.A7

"Laws aim: Curb sports violence," 8-26-2002 Asbury Park Press, p.A3

"Bill on conduct at youth sports events is signed" 8-26-2002 Philadelphia Inquirer, pB2

Title 5.
Chapter 17. (New)
Athletic Codes of
Conduct for Youth
Sports Events.
§§1-5 -
C.5:17-1
to 5:17-5

P.L. 2002, CHAPTER 74, *approved August 25, 2002*
Assembly, No. 446 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the establishment of athletic codes of conduct for
2 players, coaches, officials and parents and supplementing Title 5 of
3 the Revised Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. a. A school board or youth sports team organization may
9 establish an athletic code of conduct. An athletic code of conduct
10 established pursuant to the provisions of this act shall contain
11 guidelines for conduct of behavior to be observed at youth sports
12 events and shall permit the school board or youth sports team
13 organization to ban the presence of any person at youth sports events
14 who (1) engages in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any
15 student, coach, official or parent, or (2) initiates a fight or scuffle with
16 any student, coach, official, parent, or other person if the conduct
17 occurs at or in connection with a school or community sponsored
18 youth sports event.

19 b. As used in this act, "youth sports event" means a competition,
20 practice or instructional event involving one or more interscholastic
21 sports teams or sports teams organized pursuant to a nonprofit or
22 similar charter or which are member teams in a league organized by or
23 affiliated with a county or municipal recreation department.

24
25 2. A school board which has established an athletic code of
26 conduct pursuant to the provisions of this act may require that all
27 students, coaches, officials, or parents of students as a condition of
28 participation in any athletic program by the student, agree in writing
29 to a code of conduct established pursuant to section 1 of
30 P.L. c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as this bill) which
31 would require the student, parent, coach or official to refrain from
32 verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any student, coach, official
33 or other parent, or, from initiating any fight or scuffle with any person.
34 The board shall have the power to ban the presence of any student,

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SLP committee amendments adopted June 13, 2002.

1 coach, parent or official at any subsequent school sports event who
2 shall violate the athletic code of conduct.

3
4 3. Any sports teams organized pursuant to a nonprofit or similar
5 charter or which are member teams in a league organized by or
6 affiliated with a county or municipal recreation department may
7 require that all youth athletes, coaches, officials, or parents of youth
8 athletes as a condition of participation in any athletic program by the
9 youth athlete agree in writing to a code of conduct established
10 pursuant to section 1 of P.L. c. (C.) (now pending before the
11 Legislature as this bill) which would require the youth athlete, parent,
12 coach or official to refrain from verbal or physical threats or abuse
13 aimed at any student, coach, official or other parent, or, from initiating
14 any fight or scuffle with any person. The sports team shall have the
15 power to ban the presence of any youth athlete, coach, parent or
16 official at any subsequent youth sports event who shall violate the
17 code of conduct.

18
19 4. Any student, coach, official, parent or other person subject to
20 the terms and conditions of an athletic code of conduct established
21 pursuant to the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending before
22 the Legislature as this bill) who violates the provisions of the athletic
23 code of conduct, may be banned from attending any subsequent school
24 or community sponsored youth sports event. In the event that any
25 student, coach, official, parent or other person subject to the terms and
26 conditions of an athletic code of conduct is banned from attendance,
27 that person may petition the school board or sports team for
28 permission to resume attendance. Prior to being permitted to resume
29 attendance, the school board or sports team shall require the individual
30 to present proof of completion of ¹[sports violence] anger
31 management¹ counseling through a public or private source.

32
33 ¹5. The Attorney General shall promulgate:
34 a. (1) A model athletic code of conduct which may be adopted by
35 a school board or youth sports team organization pursuant to the
36 provisions of this act; and
37 (2) Model policies regarding banning a person from a school or
38 community sponsored youth sports event, minimum requirements for
39 anger management counseling and permitting a person to resume
40 attendance subsequent to the completion of anger management
41 counseling, which may be adopted by a school board or youth sports
42 team organization pursuant to the provisions of this act.
43 b. In developing these models, the Attorney General shall consult
44 with youth interscholastic or nonprofit community sports
45 organizations, county and municipal recreation departments and any
46 other organization deemed appropriate.¹

1 ¹[5.] 6.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

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6 Permits the establishment of athletic codes of conduct; requires anger
7 management counseling prior to resuming attendance.

ASSEMBLY, No. 446

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 210th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2002 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ROBERT J. SMITH

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Permits the establishment of athletic codes of conduct; requires sports violence management counseling prior to resuming attendance.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning the establishment of athletic codes of conduct for
2 players, coaches, officials and parents and supplementing Title 5 of
3 the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. a. Athletic Code of Conduct. A school board or youth sports
9 team organization may establish an athletic code of conduct. An
10 athletic code of conduct established pursuant to the provisions of this
11 act shall contain guidelines for conduct of behavior to be observed at
12 youth sports events and shall permit the school board or youth sports
13 team organization to ban the presence of any person at youth sports
14 events who (1) engages in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed
15 at any student, coach, official or parent, or (2) initiates a fight or
16 scuffle with any student, coach, official parent, or other person if the
17 conduct occurs at or in connection with a school or community
18 sponsored youth sports event.

19 b. As used in this act, "youth sports event" means a competition,
20 practice or instructional event involving one or more interscholastic
21 sports teams or sports teams organized pursuant to a nonprofit or
22 similar charter or which are member teams in a league organized by or
23 affiliated with a county or municipal recreation department.

24
25 2. A school board which has established an athletic code of
26 conduct pursuant to the provisions of this act may require that all
27 students, coaches, officials, or parents of students as a condition of
28 participation in any athletic program by the student, to agree in writing
29 to a code of conduct established pursuant to section 1 of
30 P.L. c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as this bill) which
31 would require the student, parent, coach or official to refrain from
32 verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any student, coach, official
33 or other parent, or, from initiating any fight or scuffle with any person.
34 The board shall have the power to ban the presence of any student,
35 coach, parent or official at any subsequent school sports event who
36 shall violate the athletic code of conduct.

37
38 3. Any sports teams organized pursuant to a nonprofit or similar
39 charter or which are member teams in a league organized by or
40 affiliated with a county or municipal recreation department may
41 require that all youth athletes, coaches, officials, or parents of youth
42 athletes as a condition of participation in any athletic program by the
43 youth athlete to agree in writing to a code of conduct established
44 pursuant to section 1 of P.L. c. (C.) (now pending before the
45 Legislature as this bill) which would require the youth athlete, parent,
46 coach or official to refrain from verbal or physical threats or abuse

1 aimed at any student, coach, official or other parent, or, from initiating
2 any fight or scuffle with any person. The sports team shall have the
3 power to ban the presence of any youth athlete, coach, parent or
4 official at any subsequent youth sports event who shall violate the
5 code of conduct.

6
7 4. Any student, coach, official, parent or other person subject to
8 the terms and conditions of an athletic code of conduct established
9 pursuant to the provisions of P.L. c, (C.) (now pending before
10 the Legislature as this bill) who violates the provisions of the athletic
11 code of conduct, may be banned from attending any subsequent school
12 or community sponsored youth sports event. In the event that any
13 student, coach, official, parent or other person subject to the terms and
14 conditions of an athletic code of conduct is banned from attendance,
15 that person may petition the school board or sports team for
16 permission to resume attendance. Prior to being permitted to resume
17 attendance, the school board or sports team shall require the individual
18 to present proof of completion of sports violence counseling through
19 public or private source.

20
21 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

22
23
24 STATEMENT

25
26 This bill would permit a school board or youth sports organizations
27 to establish an athletic code of conduct for all students, coaches,
28 officials, or parents of students as a condition of participation in any
29 athletic program by the student or youth athlete. A school or sports
30 team which has an athletic code of conduct in place would have the
31 authority to ban the presence of any youth athlete, coach, parent or
32 official at any subsequent youth sports event who shall violate the
33 code of conduct. The bill provides that in the event that an individual
34 is banned from attendance at subsequent youth sports events, that
35 individual may petition the school board or sports team for permission
36 to resume attendance. Prior to being permitted to resume attendance,
37 the school board or sports team shall require the individual to present
38 proof of completion of sports violence counseling through public or
39 private source.

ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 446

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 31, 2002

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 446.

Assembly Bill No. 446 permits school boards or youth sports organizations to establish an athletic code of conduct for all students, coaches, officials, or parents of students as a condition of participation in any athletic program by the student or youth athlete. A school or sports team which has an athletic code of conduct in place would have the authority to ban the presence of a youth athlete, coach, parent or official at any subsequent youth sports event for violating the code. Under the bill, a person banned from attending subsequent youth sports events may petition the school board or sports team for permission to resume attendance. Before being permitted to resume attendance, the person must present to the school board or sports team proof of completion of sports violence counseling through a public or private source.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2002 legislative session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND VETERANS'
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Corrected Copy]

ASSEMBLY, No. 446

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 13, 2002

The Senate Law and Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 446 (CC).

As amended and released by the committee, this bill permits school boards or youth sports organizations to establish an athletic code of conduct for all students, coaches, officials, or parents of students as a condition of participation in any athletic program by the student or youth athlete. A school or sports team which has an athletic code of conduct in place would have the authority to ban the presence of a youth athlete, coach, parent or official at any subsequent youth sports event for violating the code. Under the bill's provisions, a person banned from attending subsequent youth sports events may petition the school board or sports team for permission to resume attendance. Before being permitted to resume attendance, the person must present to the school board or sports team proof of completion of anger management counseling through a public or private source.

The committee amendments require the Attorney General to promulgate: (1) a model athletic code of conduct which may be adopted by a school board or youth sports team organization pursuant to the bill's provisions; (2) minimum requirements for anger management counseling; and (3) model policies regarding banning a person from a school or community sponsored youth sports event and permitting a person to resume attendance subsequent to the completion of anger management counseling which may be adopted by a school board or youth sports team organization pursuant to the bill's provisions. In developing these models, the Attorney General is required to consult with youth interscholastic or nonprofit community sports organizations, county and municipal recreation departments and any other organization deemed appropriate. As introduced, the bill required attendance at sports violence counseling.

SENATE, No. 1122

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
210th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 21, 2002

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH CONIGLIO

District 38 (Bergen)

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Permits the establishment of athletic codes of conduct; requires sports violence management counseling prior to resuming attendance.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/22/2002)

1 AN ACT concerning the establishment of athletic codes of conduct for
2 players, coaches, officials and parents and supplementing Title 5 of
3 the Revised Statutes.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7

8 1. a. A school board or youth sports team organization may
9 establish an athletic code of conduct. An athletic code of conduct
10 established pursuant to the provisions of this act shall contain
11 guidelines for conduct of behavior to be observed at youth sports
12 events and shall permit the school board or youth sports team
13 organization to ban the presence of any person at youth sports events
14 who (1) engages in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any
15 student, coach, official or parent, or (2) initiates a fight or scuffle with
16 any student, coach, official, parent, or other person if the conduct
17 occurs at or in connection with a school or community sponsored
18 youth sports event.

19 b. As used in this act, "youth sports event" means a competition,
20 practice or instructional event involving one or more interscholastic
21 sports teams or sports teams organized pursuant to a nonprofit or
22 similar charter or which are member teams in a league organized by or
23 affiliated with a county or municipal recreation department.

24

25 2. A school board which has established an athletic code of
26 conduct pursuant to the provisions of this act may require that all
27 students, coaches, officials, or parents of students as a condition of
28 participation in any athletic program by the student, agree in writing
29 to a code of conduct established pursuant to section 1 of
30 P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as this bill)
31 which would require the student, parent, coach or official to refrain
32 from verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any student, coach,
33 official or other parent, or, from initiating any fight or scuffle with any
34 person. The board shall have the power to ban the presence of any
35 student, coach, parent or official at any subsequent school sports event
36 who shall violate the athletic code of conduct.

37

38 3. Any sports teams organized pursuant to a nonprofit or similar
39 charter or which are member teams in a league organized by or
40 affiliated with a county or municipal recreation department may
41 require that all youth athletes, coaches, officials, or parents of youth
42 athletes as a condition of participation in any athletic program by the
43 youth athlete agree in writing to a code of conduct established
44 pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending before the
45 Legislature as this bill) which would require the youth athlete, parent,
46 coach or official to refrain from verbal or physical threats or abuse

1 aimed at any student, coach, official or other parent, or, from initiating
2 any fight or scuffle with any person. The sports team shall have the
3 power to ban the presence of any youth athlete, coach, parent or
4 official at any subsequent youth sports event who shall violate the
5 code of conduct.

6
7 4. Any student, coach, official, parent or other person subject to
8 the terms and conditions of an athletic code of conduct established
9 pursuant to the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending before
10 the Legislature as this bill) who violates the provisions of the athletic
11 code of conduct, may be banned from attending any subsequent school
12 or community sponsored youth sports event. In the event that any
13 student, coach, official, parent or other person subject to the terms and
14 conditions of an athletic code of conduct is banned from attendance,
15 that person may petition the school board or sports team for
16 permission to resume attendance. Prior to being permitted to resume
17 attendance, the school board or sports team shall require the individual
18 to present proof of completion of sports violence counseling through
19 a public or private source.

20
21 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

22
23
24 STATEMENT

25
26 This bill would permit a school board or youth sports organizations
27 to establish an athletic code of conduct for all students, coaches,
28 officials, or parents of students as a condition of participation in any
29 athletic program by the student or youth athlete. A school or sports
30 team which has an athletic code of conduct in place would have the
31 authority to ban the presence of any youth athlete, coach, parent or
32 official at any subsequent youth sports event who shall violate the
33 code of conduct. The bill provides that in the event that an individual
34 is banned from attendance at subsequent youth sports events, that
35 individual may petition the school board or sports team for permission
36 to resume attendance. Prior to being permitted to resume attendance,
37 the school board or sports team shall require the individual to present
38 proof of completion of sports violence counseling through public or
39 private source.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND VETERANS'
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1122

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 13, 2002

The Senate Law and Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1122.

As amended and released by the committee, this bill permits school boards or youth sports organizations to establish an athletic code of conduct for all students, coaches, officials, or parents of students as a condition of participation in any athletic program by the student or youth athlete. A school or sports team which has an athletic code of conduct in place would have the authority to ban the presence of a youth athlete, coach, parent or official at any subsequent youth sports event for violating the code. Under the bill's provisions, a person banned from attending subsequent youth sports events may petition the school board or sports team for permission to resume attendance. Before being permitted to resume attendance, the person must present to the school board or sports team proof of completion of anger management counseling through a public or private source.

The committee amendments require the Attorney General to promulgate: (1) a model athletic code of conduct which may be adopted by a school board or youth sports team organization pursuant to the bill's provisions; (2) minimum requirements for anger management counseling; and (3) model policies regarding banning a person from a school or community sponsored youth sports event and permitting a person to resume attendance subsequent to the completion of anger management counseling which may be adopted by a school board or youth sports team organization pursuant to the bill's provisions. In developing these models, the Attorney General is required to consult with youth interscholastic or nonprofit community sports organizations, county and municipal recreation departments and any other organization deemed appropriate. As introduced, the bill required attendance at sports violence counseling.

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Press Releases

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

Contact: Kevin Davitt
609-777-2600

RELEASE: August 26, 2002

[Previous Screen](#)

McGreevey Signs 'Athletic Code of Conduct' Bill

Youth Sports Programs to Benefit from New Law

(LITTLE FALLS) – During a special seminar on youth sports issues at the Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center today, Governor James E. McGreevey signed legislation to prevent improper conduct from parents, coaches, officials and players from marring youth sports events.

“Sports provide an opportunity for our youth to learn teamwork and good sportsmanship -- qualities which can lead to success not only in athletic competition, but also in all aspects of life,” McGreevey said. “This bill will ensure that we continue to stress the positive aspects of youth sports in New Jersey.”

The Governor said the bill, A-446, would permit a school board or youth sports organization to establish an athletic code of conduct for all students, coaches, officials or parents of students as a condition of participation in any athletic program by the student or youth athlete.

A school or sports team with an athletic code of conduct in place would have the authority to ban any youth athlete, coach, parent or official who violates the code. Violators would only be allowed to return if they complete a sports violence counseling program.

The legislation was sponsored by Assemblymen Robert J. Smith (D-Camden/Gloucester) and Louis D. Greenwald (D-Camden). Senators Joseph Coniglio (D-Bergen) and Stephen M. Sweeney (D-Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem) sponsored the measure in the upper house.

McGreevey signed the bill during sports parenting expert Rick Wolff’s “Sports Edge” show on WFAN radio. The program, broadcast live from the Yogi Berra Museum & Learning Center this morning, featured a panel discussion on youth sports issues.

The panel included Yogi’s son Dale, a former Major League baseball player, Sports Illustrated Senior Writer Peter King, Saint John’s University Women’s Tennis Coach Kyle Copeland and Ashley Hammond, a professional youth soccer coach.

“New Jersey is a state with hundreds of excellent youth sports programs supported by dedicated parents, coaches and officials,” McGreevey said. “This bill provides an important tool to protect the quality of these valuable programs.”