



Queensland

# **Concussion in Sports Youth Act 2025**

**Act No. 3 of 2025**

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**A Youth Bill for a Youth Act to promote safety in contact sports, and for related purposes, and to amend the Civil Liability Act 2003 and the Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002 for particular purposes**

**[Assented to 23 October 2025]**





Queensland

# Concussion in Sports Youth Act 2025

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## **The Youth Parliament of Queensland enacts—**

## 1 Short title

This Youth Act may be cited as the *Concussion in Sports Youth Act 2025*.

## 2 Commencement

This Youth Act commences on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

### 3 Main purpose of Act

- (1) The main purpose of this Youth Act is to—
  - (a) protect the safety, health and wellbeing of young athletes in Queensland; and
  - (b) ensure all young athletes can participate in sport in an environment that is physically, psychologically and culturally safe.
- (2) The main purpose of this Youth Act is achieved by—
  - (a) establishing a registry which includes participant's concussion histories and information about the management of their concussions and concussion-related injuries; and
  - (b) establishing minimum standards for the identification, management and reporting of concussions in sport; and
  - (c) establishing minimum training about concussions and concussion-related injuries for participants, parents and guardians and staff; and

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- (d) establishing a fund for participants who are child who are suffering from or who have suffered from concussion or concussion-related injury.

#### **4 Definitions**

The dictionary in schedule 1 defines particular words used in this Youth Act.

#### **5 Act binds all persons**

- (1) This Youth Act binds all persons, including the State.
- (2) However, the State can not be prosecuted for an offence against this Youth Act.

### **Part 2 Concussion register**

#### **6 Chief executive to establish and maintain concussion register**

- (1) The chief executive must establish and maintain a register (the *concussion register*) for the purposes of this Youth Act.
- (2) The register—
  - (a) must contain the information required by this Youth Act to be included in the register; and
  - (b) may contain other information that is prescribed by regulation or that the chief executive considers appropriate for inclusion in the register.
- (3) The register may be wholly or partly—
  - (a) in the form of a computer database; or
  - (b) in documentary form; or
  - (c) in another form the chief executive considers appropriate.

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- (4) The chief executive must maintain the information in the concussion register in a way that makes the information reasonably accessible.
- (5) Despite the *Public Records Act 2002*, the chief executive is to retain control over access to any information or records maintained under this part.

## 7 Sources of information included in register

The chief executive must ensure the register includes—

- (a) information entered required to be entered into the register by concussion officers under section 22; and
- (b) information voluntarily provided to the chief executive by a participant or another person with the participant's consent under section 9.

## 8 Relevant information to be included in register

- (1) The information that is to be included in the register is relevant information entered into the concussion register or provided to the chief executive relating to a participant's history of concussion and the management of their concussions and concussion-related injuries.
- (2) Relevant information is the following—
  - (a) the name of the participant;
  - (b) the date of birth of the participant;
  - (c) the contact sports the participant participates in;
  - (d) the approved particulars about any removal of the participant from participation in contact sport following a suspected concussion;
  - (e) the approved particulars about any referral of the participant to a doctor following a suspected concussion;
  - (f) the approved particulars about any gradual return-to-play program for the participant.

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## **9 Voluntary provision of information a participant or another person with the participant's consent**

A relevant person for a participant may provide the registrar with all or any relevant information relating to a participant's history of concussion and the management of their concussions and concussion-related injuries.

## **10 General access to concussion register**

- (1) A person may apply to the chief executive in the approved way for authorisation to generally access and enter information into the register.
- (2) Unless there are exceptional circumstances, the chief executive may only authorise a concussion officer to generally access and enter information into the register.
- (3) Further, the chief executive may only authorise a concussion officer to generally access and enter information into the register if the State sporting organisation for their contact sport adopts and maintains a policy of obtaining the consent of participants in the contact sport to generally access and enter information into the register relating to the participant.

## **11 Ad hoc access to information in concussion register**

- (1) A person may apply to the chief executive in the approved way for all or any of the information in the register about or otherwise relating to themselves or another person.
- (2) The chief executive must provide the information requested by the applicant if—
  - (a) the chief executive is reasonably satisfied the applicant is the person whom the information is about or otherwise relates to; or
  - (b) the chief executive is reasonably satisfied the person whom the information is about or otherwise relating to has consented to the applicant accessing the information.

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## **12 Provision of statistical and other non-identifying information to authorised entities**

- (1) The chief executive may, on application by an authorised entity, provide the entity with statistical or other non-identifying information in the register.
- (2) The chief executive must maintain and publish a written statement of the policies relating to the provision of information to entities under this section.
- (3) In this section—

***authorised entity*** means an entity that is authorised for this section by regulation or by the policies maintained by the chief executive under subsection (2).

## **13 Accuracy of and removal of information from concussion register**

- (1) The chief executive may correct or remove information from the register—
  - (a) on application by a person whose information is in the register; or
  - (b) on the chief executive's own initiative.
- (2) The chief executive must correct or remove information from the register on the order of a Queensland court or QCAT.
- (3) The chief executive is not, despite the *Information Privacy Act 2009* or any other law, required to ensure that the information in the register is accurate and complete.

## **14 Unauthorised disclosure of information from register**

- (1) A person must not, without lawful authority, disclose information obtained from the register to another person.  
Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), a person has lawful authority to disclose information if the relevant person for the person whom the information is about consents to the disclosure.

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## **15 Unauthorised access to or interference with register**

(1) A person must not, without lawful authority—

- (a) access the register or information in the register; or
- (b) make, alter or delete any information in the register; or
- (c) interfere with the register in any other way.

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), a person has lawful authority to do something mentioned in that subsection if—

- (a) the person is doing the thing to carry out a function under this Youth Act or another Act; or
- (b) the registrar has authorised the person to do the thing.

(3) A person must not use or disclose information that the person knows has been obtained from the register in contravention of subsection (1).

Maximum penalty—100 penalty units.

## **Part 3 Chief concussion officers and concussion officers**

### **16 State contact sporting organisations to have a chief concussion officer**

(1) A State contact sporting organisation, for each contact sport they are the State sporting organisation for, must appoint at least 1 appropriately qualified person (each person a *chief concussion officer*).

(2) A State contact sporting organisation may appoint the same persons the chief concussion officer for two or more contact sports.

## **17 Functions of chief concussion officers**

- (1) A chief concussion officer, for a contact sport, has the following functions and responsibilities—
  - (a) overseeing the management of concussions and concussion-related injuries in the sport; and
  - (b) ensuring the State contact sporting organisation for the contact sport and all persons involved in the sport comply with this Youth Act.
- (2) Also, a chief concussion officer has any other function or responsibility given to them under this Youth Act or another Act.

## **18 Contact sporting organisations to have concussion officers**

A contact sporting organisation must appoint the number of concussion officers that is appropriate having regard to all the circumstances.

## **19 Qualifications for concussion officers**

The contact sporting organisation that appointed a concussion officer and the State sporting organisation for the contact sporting organisation must ensure a concussion officer—

- (aa) is an adult; and
- (a) holds a current first aid qualification prescribed by regulation; and
- (b) has completed the approved concussion management training for the sport; and
- (c) each year completes the approved refresher concussion management training for the sport.

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## Part 4

# Minimum standards for management of concussion

## Division 1

### Contact sporting organisations

#### 20 Application of division

This division applies if a participant is someone that a reasonable person would suspect has sustained a concussion, including because they—

- (a) are displaying concussion symptoms; or
- (b) have had the ground, an object or a part of their or another person's body collide with or strike their head with force.

#### 21 Removal and referral of the participant

A contact sporting organisation for the participant must take all reasonable steps to ensure the participant is—

- (a) immediately removed from participating in the contact sport; and
- (b) as soon as practicable, and in any case within 2 days after their removal, referred to a doctor, including by giving the relevant person for the participant the approved form.

#### 22 Gradual return of participant

- (1) A contact sporting organisation for the participant must take all reasonable steps to ensure—
  - (a) a concussion officer reviews the concussion registry in relation to the participant; and
  - (b) the participant is assessed and medically cleared by a doctor before participating in full contact activities,

including by having the doctor complete and return the approved form; and

(c) unless the participant is diagnosed by a doctor as not having sustained a concussion—the participant participates in a gradual return to sport program that—

- (i) requires the participant to refrain from participating in full contact activities—for a participant mentioned in column 1 of the table below, for the period stated in column 2 of the table opposite the participant; and
- (ii) requires the participant to refrain from participating in competitive play—for a participant mentioned in column 1 of the table below, for the period stated in column 3 of the table opposite the participant; and
- (iii) if the participant is under 14 years—requires the participant to refrain from participating in more than 1 training session each week.
- (iv) complies with any guidelines made by the chief executive.

<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>	<b>Column 3</b>
<b>Young Athlete</b>	<b>Period without full contact training</b>	<b>Period without competitive play</b>

A young athlete that Until the participant is Until the participant is has suffered a free of concussion free of concussion concussion in the symptoms for 14 days symptoms for 21 days previous 12 months

A young athlete that Until the participant is Until the participant is has suffered two free of concussion free of concussion concussions in the symptoms for 28 days symptoms for 42 days previous 12 months

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Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Young Athlete	Period without contact training	full Period without competitive play

A young athlete that Until the end of the Until the end of the has suffered more than sporting season sporting season two concussions in the previous 12 months

(2) For subsection (1), the contact sporting organisation must take all reasonable steps to ensure the participant is assessed at least once during the period commencing at least 24 hours after their removal from participation and ending 7 days after their removal from participation.

## 23 Reporting of removal, referral and return of participant

A contact sporting organisation for the participant must take all reasonable steps to ensure—

- (a) that as soon as practicable after, and in any case within 2 days after, the removal of the participant from participating in the contact sport, the approved particulars about the removal and referral of the participant are entered into the concussion registry by a concussion officer; and
- (b) that as soon as practicable after the participant returns to participation in competitive play, the approved particulars about the participant's medical clearance and gradual return to sport program are entered into the concussion registry by a concussion officer.

## 24 Mental health and wellbeing support for participant

A contact sporting organisation for a participant must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the participant is provided with appropriate mental health and wellbeing supports, including, for example, counselling and peer support.

## **24A Aboriginal participants or Torres Strait Islander participants**

A contact sporting organisation for the participant must take all reasonable steps to ensure an Aboriginal participant or Torres Strait Islander participant or a relevant person for the participant—

- (a) may escalate any concern the participant or the relevant person has about the management of the participant’s concussion or concussion symptoms; and
- (b) may involve a support person in any discussions relating to the management of the participant’s concussion or concussion symptoms.

## **25 Lack of consent of participant**

A contact sporting organisation need not comply with a provision of this division requiring the accessing of or the entry of information into the concussion register if the relevant person for the participant does not consent to the contact sporting organisation accessing or entering information into the concussion register in relation to the participant.

## **Division 2 State–schools and non–State schools**

### **26 Application of division**

This division applies if a member of a State-school or non–State school’s staff is told by a relevant person for a student enrolled with the State–school or non–State school that the student has sustained a concussion while participating in a contact sport.

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## **27 Gradual return of student**

- (1) The principal of the State–school or non–State school must take all reasonable steps to ensure that any recommendations made by a doctor in relation to the management of the student’s concussion are followed.
- (2) Things a principal may be required to ensure are done under subsection (1) include the following—
  - (a) allowing partial attendance;
  - (b) lessening the student’s workload;
  - (c) providing the student with access to a quiet area;
  - (d) allowing the student to start late or leave early;
  - (e) allowing the student to take additional breaks; and
  - (f) extending assessment or other due dates or deadlines.

## **Division 3 Workplaces**

### **28 Application of division**

This section applies if an employer is told by a relevant person for an employee that the employee has sustained a concussion while participating in a contact sport.

### **29 Gradual return of employee**

- (1) The employer must take all reasonable steps to ensure that any recommendations made by a doctor in relation to the management of the employee’s concussion are followed.
- (2) Things an employer may be required to ensure are done under subsection (1) include the following—
  - (a) adjusting the employee’s work hours;
  - (b) reducing the intensity of the employee’s duties;
  - (c) allowing the employee to work remotely;

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- (d) modifying the workplace;
- (e) modifying equipment used by the employee.

## 30 Annual concussion training in contact sports

- (1) A contact sporting organisation for a participant must take all reasonable steps to ensure that each year the participant and, if the participant is a child, the participant's parent or guardian completes the approved concussion awareness training.
- (2) A contact sporting organisation must take all reasonable steps to ensure that each year a member of staff involved in the sport, including a volunteer, completes the approved staff concussion awareness training.

### 31 Annual concussion training in schools

A principal of a State school or non-State school must take all reasonable steps to ensure that each year a student enrolled in the State school or non-State school and the student's parent or guardian completes the approved school-based concussion awareness training.

## **Part 6**      **Concussion and Concussion-related Injury Fund**

## 32 Establish of fund

The Concussion and Concussion-related Injury Fund (the *fund*) is established.

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### **33 Fund bank account**

- (1) The department must keep a fund bank account.
- (2) The account is in addition to other accounts the department is required or permitted to keep under an Act.
- (3) The chief executive must pay all amounts received for the fund into the fund bank account, including amounts appropriated by Parliament and any other amounts received by the department for the fund.
- (4) The chief executive may pay amounts out of the fund bank account only in order to grant assistance under section 23.
- (5) The Treasurer may give the chief executive a direction about the banking arrangements for the fund bank account.
- (6) The direction must be consistent with requirements applying to the department under this Youth Act or another Act.
- (7) The chief executive must comply with a direction given under subsection (5).

### **34 Funding for fund**

The Treasurer must, each financial year, cause 5% of the total betting tax received by the State for the previous financial year to be paid into the fund.

### **35 Purposes of fund**

The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance to particular persons who are suffering from, or have suffered from, a concussion or concussion-related injury.

### **36 Eligibility for assistance**

A person is eligible for assistance if they—

- (a) are a participant; and

- (b) have participated in contact sport at a contact sporting event organised by a contact sporting organisation or a school; and
- (c) have been diagnosed by a doctor with a concussion or concussion related injury; and
- (d) acquired the concussion or concussion-related injury as a direct result of participation in the contact sporting event.

### **37 Amount of assistance**

A person who is eligible for assistance may be granted assistance up to \$150,000.

### **38 Composition of assistance**

The assistance granted under section 23 may consist of 1 or more of the following components—

- (a) reasonable medical expenses incurred, or reasonably likely to be incurred, by the person as a direct result of the concussion or concussion-related injury;
- (b) loss of earnings suffered, or reasonably likely to have been suffered, by the person as a direct result of the concussion or concussion-related injury, during a period of up to three months after the concussion or concussion-related injury occurred;
- (c) payment for loss of use of registration fees, equipment and other similar things, where the loss of use occurred as a direct result of the concussion or concussion-related injury.

### **39 Grant only if applicant is eligible**

The chief executive may grant assistance to a person only if they are satisfied, on the balance of probabilities, the person is eligible for the assistance.

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#### **40 Grant of assistance does not affect other right etc.**

The granting of financial assistance under this Youth Act to a person does not limit a right, entitlement or remedy the person has under common law or otherwise.

#### **41 Review of fund**

- (1) The Minister must review the operation and effectiveness of the fund and this part as soon as practicable after the day that is 3 years after the commencement.
- (2) The Minister must also review the operation and effectiveness of the fund and this part every 3 years after the review mentioned in subsection (1).
- (3) The Minister must table the report about the outcome of each review in the Legislative Assembly

### **Part 8 Regulation-Making Power**

#### **44 Approved training for concussion officers**

- (1) The chief executive must approve concussion management training and refresher concussion management training, for a contact sport, for the purposes of section 19.
- (2) Before approving training, the chief executive must consult—
  - (a) a chief concussion officer for the contact sport; and
  - (b) the chief health officer; and
  - (c) the Sports Federation of Queensland Incorporated (IA11494).
- (3) Further, in deciding whether to approve training, the chief executive must have regard to any standards or guidelines for training published by the Australian Sports Commission.

## **45 Approved training for participants and staff**

- (1) The chief executive must approve concussion awareness training and staff concussion awareness training, for a contact sport, for the purposes of section 30(1) and (2).
- (2) Before approving training, the chief executive must consult—
  - (a) a chief concussion officer for the contact sport; and
  - (b) the chief health officer; and
  - (c) the Sports Federation of Queensland Incorporated (IA11494).
- (3) Further, in deciding whether to approve training, the chief executive must have regard to any standards or guidelines for training published by the Australian Sports Commission.
- (4) The chief executive must not approve concussion awareness training unless the chief executive is satisfied the training appropriately includes training about the following—
  - (a) what a concussion is;
  - (b) why it is vital to understand concussions; and
  - (c) how a person can prevent and manage concussion and concussion-related injury;
  - (d) concussion symptoms;
  - (e) how to identify activities which involve a high risk of concussion and concussion-related injury;
  - (f) the potential severity and long-term impacts of concussion;
  - (g) the importance of maintaining awareness for other participant's wellbeing.

## **46 Approved training for students**

- (1) The chief executive must approve school-based concussion awareness training for the purposes of section 31.
- (2) The chief executive must not approve concussion awareness training unless the chief executive is satisfied the training

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appropriately includes training about the matters mentioned in section 45(4).

## **47 Approved forms**

- (1) The chief executive must approve forms for the purposes of sections 21(b) and 22(b).
- (2) The chief executive may approve other forms for use under this Youth Act.

## **48 Approved particulars**

The chief executive must approve particulars for the purposes of sections 8(2)(d) to (f) and 23(a) and (b).

## **49 Guidelines**

The chief executive may make guidelines about gradual return-to-sport programs.

## **50 Regulation-making power**

The Governor in Council may make regulations under this Youth Act.

## **50A Extension of timeframes**

The Youth Governor in Council may make a regulation extending the period in which a person must do a thing or ensure a thing is done under this Youth Act.

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## Part 9                   Amendment of Acts

### Division 1                   Amendment of Civil Liability Act 2003

#### 51           Act amended

This Part amends the *Civil Liability Act 2003*.

#### 52           Amendment of s 13 (Meaning of obvious risk)

Section 13—

*insert*—

- (6) Further, to remove any doubt, it is declared that a risk is not an obvious risk if it is created because of an entity's failure to comply with the *Concussion in Sports Youth Act 2025*.

### Division 2                   Amendment of Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002

#### 53           Act Amended

This Part amends the *Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002*.

#### 54           Amendment of s 6 (Application of Act)

After section 9C—

*insert*—

#### 9D   Claims for concussion or concussion-related injury exempt from part

- (1) This section applies to a proceeding for a claim for concussion or concussion-related injury.
- (2) This part does not apply to a proceeding for a

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claim to which this section applies.

- (3) To remove any doubt, it is declared that a person may start a proceeding for a claim for concussion or concussion-related injury without complying with section 9 or any other requirement of this part.
- (4) In this section—  
*concussion* see *Concussion in Sports Youth Act*, schedule 1.  
*concussion-related injury* see *Concussion in Sports Youth Act*, schedule 1.

## Division 3

## Amendment of Work Health and Safety Act 2011

### 55 Act Amended

This Part amends the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.

### 56 Amendment of sch 1 (Application of Act)

Schedule 1, after part 1—

*insert*—

### Part 1A

### Contact sporting organisations

- (1) Parts 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 apply to and in relation to contact sporting events that contact sporting organisations have control over, organise, administer or provide teams for within the meaning of the *Concussion in Sport Youth Act 2025*.
- (2) Despite section 5(7), this Act applies to a

contact sporting organisation that is a volunteer association.

(3) For subsections (1) and (2)—

- (a) a reference in this Act to a person conducting a business or undertaking includes a reference to a contact sporting organisation; and
- (b) a reference in this Act to a contravention of this Act includes a reference to a contravention of the *Concussion in Sport Youth Act 2025*; and
- (c) a reference in this Act to a worker includes a reference to a participant within the meaning of *Concussion in Sport Youth Act 2025*; and
- (d) a reference in this Act to carrying out work includes a reference to having control over, organising, administering and providing teams for a contact sporting event; and
- (e) a reference in this Act to a workplace includes a reference to—
  - (i) the premises at or in which the contact sporting event occurs;
  - (ii) any premises owned, occupied or controlled by the contact sporting organisation; and
- (f) a reference in this Act to work health and safety (however expressed) includes a reference to sporting health and safety; and
- (g) the provisions mentioned in subsection (1) apply as if a contravention of the *Concussion in Sport Youth Act 2025* is

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a contravention of a WHS civil penalty provision that does not have a maximum penalty.

## Schedule 1      Dictionary

### section 4

***approved way***, of making an application, giving a notice or entering information, means a way that is—

- (a) approved by the registrar; and
- (b) published on the department's website.

***chief concussion officer*** see section 15.

***competitive play*** means participation in a sporting event that is an organised match, tournament, game or contest, whether formal or informal, that involves direct opposition and is regulated by rules and guidelines.

***concussion*** means a traumatic brain injury caused by a strike to or impact with the head or body that results in an alteration in brain function, including, for example, temporary loss of consciousness, confusion and memory disturbance.

***concussion-related injury*** means an injury caused by a person suffering from repeated concussions.

***concussion officer*** means officer means a person appointed by a contact sporting organisation to oversee concussion management, response and recovery.

***concussion symptoms*** include headache, dizziness, nausea, blurred vision, sensitivity to light or noise, confusion, memory loss, difficulty concentrating, loss of consciousness and emotional instability.

***contact sport*** means a sport in which physical contact between participants is routine and permitted by the rules of the sport.

***contact sporting event*** includes any sporting activity or sporting competition where physical contact between participants is routine and permitted by the rules of the sport.

***contact sporting organisation***—

Schedule 1

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- (a) A *contact sporting organisation* is an entity that—
  - (i) has control over, organises or administers a contact sport or contact sporting event; or
  - (ii) provides teams to compete in contact sports or contact sporting events.
- (b) Also, a State contact sporting organisation is a *contact sporting organisation*.
- (c) A *contact sporting organisation*, for a participant, is a contact sporting organisation that—
  - (i) has control over, organises or administers the contact sport or the contact sporting event the participant participates in; or
  - (ii) the participant is registered with as a participant, however expressed; or
  - (iii) another contact sporting organisation for the participant is a part of, a member of or otherwise affiliated with.

***full contact training*** means a contact sporting event which does not involve competitive play but does involve routine and permitted physical contact between participants.

***non-contact training*** means a contact sporting event that does not involve competitive play or physical contact between participants or objects.

***participant*** means—

- (a) a person under 18 years who participates in a contact sport that a contact sporting organization exists for; and
- (b) a person 18 years or more who is enrolled in a school who participates in a contact sport that a contact sporting organization exists for.

***register*** means the concussion register maintained by the chief executive for the purposes of this Youth Act.

***relevant information***, relating to a participant's history of concussion and management of their concussions and

concussion related-injuries, means the information stated in section 8.

***relevant person***, for a person, means—

- (a) for a person who is a child—the person's parent or guardian, or another person acting with the consent of the person's parent or guardian; or
- (b) for a person who is an adult—the person, or another person acting with the person's consent.

***State contact sporting organisation***—

- (a) *State contact sporting organisation* means the entity recognised by the agency responsible for the administration of a sport in the State as the sporting organisation for a contact sport in the State.
- (b) A *State contact sporting organisation*, for a contact sporting organisation other than a State contact sporting organisation, is a State contact sporting organisation the contact sporting organization is a part of, a member of or otherwise affiliated with.