Delaware’s Rank: **35th out of 51 States** (including Washington D.C)

Delaware’s Score: **45.73 out of 100 Points**

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### ABOUT KSI

In the past ten years, 222 children have died from sports related injuries while participating in organized high school athletics. Some of the most common causes of death in sports are sudden cardiac arrest, exertional heat stroke, and traumatic head injury.

The Korey Stringer Institute is dedicated to preventing sudden death in sports. Recently KSI has published a study that ranked states by their health and safety policies according to best practices established by panels of experts in the field.

Our mission is to inform parents, coaches, and community members about the steps that Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA) and Delaware’s legislators have taken to protect athletes.

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Ranks and Scores are accurate as of June 2018

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**Strengths**

- Emergency Preparedness
- Heat Stroke

**Areas for Improvement**

- Head Injuries
- Cardiac Arrest
- Healthcare Coverage

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**Definitions:**

AHCC (Appropriate Healthcare Coverage), EHS (Exertional Heat Stroke), EP (Emergency Preparedness), SCA (Sudden Cardiac Arrest), THI (Traumatic Head Injuries)
Every Day **153 People Die** From Traumatic Brain-Related Injuries.

### Delaware and Traumatic Head Injuries

Delaware leads the nation when it comes to emergency preparedness, and also performs well in heat stroke!

However, Delaware has room to grow with appropriate healthcare coverage, traumatic head injuries, and sudden cardiac arrest.

The area that Delaware falls the farthest behind is traumatic head injuries. Improving policies will bring Delaware into the top 15 states overall according to current rankings!

### Policies Currently in Place for Delaware

**Policy 3THI:** Athletes not permitted to return to activity on the same day if a concussion is suspected

**Policy 4THI:** Athletes not permitted to return to activity until cleared by an appropriate healthcare professional (MD, ATC, PA, APRN)

**Policy 7THI:** Require 4th Edition PPE forms from American Academy of Pediatrics of equivalent - Concussion

### Possible Improvements for Delaware

**Policy 1THI:** Heads up Football training for football coaches

**Policy 2THI:** Heads up Football Training for all coaches

**Policy 5THI:** Athletes are not permitted to return to play until they fully return to school

**Policy 6THI:** A minimum of a 5-step graduated return to play protocol before full return to activity. No more than 2 phases in any one day. If symptoms return during any one step, athlete must regress to previous step

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### Specific Head Injury Policies

#### What Can You Do?

Reach out to the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA). Make sure the officials responsible for student-athlete safety are using best practices.

**DIAA Executive Director**
Thomas Neubauer
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**DIAA Coordinator of Interscholastic Athletics**
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