Florida’s Rank: 7th out of 51 States (including Washington D.C)

Florida’s Score: 62.45 out of 100 Points

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 Florida Athletic Association (FHSAA) and Florida’s legislators have taken to protect athletes.

Definitions:

AHCC (Appropriate Healthcare Coverage), EHS (Exertional Heat Stroke), EP (Emergency Preparedness), SCA (Sudden Cardiac Arrest), THI (Traumatic Head Injuries)

Ranks and Scores are accurate as of August 2019
Florida and Traumatic Head Injury

Every Day **153 People Die** From Traumatic Brain-Related Injuries.

### What Can You Do?

Reach out to the Florida High School Athletics Association (FHSAA). Make sure the officials responsible for student-athlete safety are using best practices.

**FHSAA Executive Director**  
George Tomyn  
Email: EmailExecutiveDirector@fhsaa.org

**FHSAA Associate Executive Director for Athletic Services**  
Justin Harrison  
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**FHSAA Director of Athletics**  
Kellie Doucette  
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### Traumatic Head Injuries Policies

**Policies Currently in Place for Florida**

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

### Possible Improvements for Florida

- **Policy 1THI:** Heads up Football training for football coaches
- **Policy 2THI:** Heads up Football Training for all coaches

Florida leads the nation when it comes to Appropriate Healthcare Coverage, Sudden Cardiac Arrest, and performs well with Emergency Preparedness.

Florida has room to improve in Exertional Heat Stroke and Traumatic Head Injuries.

Florida would benefit the most by focusing on traumatic head injury policies. Improving policies in this area could move Florida from 7th to 4th according to current data.