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**Minutes of January 22, 2026, meeting of the Youth Sports Working Group's  
Subcommittee on Children and the Public Sector's Role in Education, Data, Health and  
Safety**

The Subcommittee was called to order at approximately 11:05 AM by John Moreschi, and attendance was taken:

**Members Present:**

Sen. Barry Finegold  
Dr. Patty Raube Keller  
Melissa Hart

**Staff Present:**

Jamie Dalton, Board Counsel  
John Moreschi, First Deputy Commissioner  
Sean Pierce, Deputy Chief of Staff

All Board Members and staff appeared by video conference.

**Discussion:**

Staff noted that Caitlyn Brennan has resigned from the working group due to scheduling constraints.

Senator Finegold moved to approve the previous meeting's minutes. Dr. Keller seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

The subcommittee returned to the previous meeting's discussion on season length and the potential for regulating it. Senator Finegold would like guardrails on how long seasons can be and noted that the NCAA has them. The members discussed having age-specific limits on seasons as well as practice, and potential limits on the number of hours per week and when activities can stop or start. Dr. Keller noted that space can be an issue that contributes to timing issues like 8-year-old children practicing at 8:30pm; if there are going to be limits, facility availability should be considered.

The members discussed setting specifics for things like time limits and season length. Senator Finegold said that legislation can set the parameters and leave it to the regulatory agency to figure out the particulars. The members discussed how club teams sometimes meet right after



school, which conflicts with school sports and may lead children to choose club sports over school sports.

The members decided that they want to recommend that an agency set standards on time and season length. Staff will prepare a draft proposal for their consideration.

The members discussed what can be done legally. They discussed club soccer running year-round and enticing kids to not play high school at all. It is hard to regulate time and season length, as seasons for youth soccer are different in different regions of the country. In addition to regulation, education is important. Teaching kids and parents about how much is OK and the risks of injury from too much. The members also discussed teaching coaches how to be coaches.

The members discussed public service announcements and awareness campaigns. The members discussed wide-ranging campaigns that might cover injuries, training, officials and fan behavior, and other topics. Senator Finegold said that there needs to be a commission on youth sports and Dr. Keller said that it should be like boxing in the state athletic commission. The members decided that they want to recommend that there be a state agency that is tasked with overseeing youth sports. The state entity should perform education and awareness campaigns as well as oversee background checks and certain training requirements. Trainings should include SafeSport training, concussions, training on the rules about sports and youth development. It is important for the education to be manageable because a lot of youth sports are run with volunteers and volunteering is to be encouraged.

Senator Finegold left the meeting at approximately 11:40.

The members discussed how kids drop out of sports around middle school and cuts to physical education have led to sports being taken over by a private system. Afterschool programs for sports should be intramurals and more skill based rather than competition based.

The members discussed concussion protocols and thought they should extend to non-school programs. Concussions should be tracked, coaches should have to take a concussion course and if there is a head injury, a player cannot return without a doctor's note. The members discussed requiring that head injuries be documented and reported up the chain within a league.

The members discussed a potential recommendation that a state agency establish a standard agreement that parents have to read and sign for their kids to play in youth sports. It can also be posted in facilities. It would have to be short enough for people to remember and include things like "be respectful" and "don't yell."

Dr. Keller moved to adjourn. Ms. Hart seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.