

Middle School Athletic Conference Consent and Release from Liability Certificate for Concussions, Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Heat Related Illness

This form must be kept on file by the school. This form is valid for 365 calendar days from the date of the most recent signature.

School: _____ School District _____

Concussion Information

Concussion is a brain injury. Concussions, as well as all other head injuries, are serious. They can be caused by a bump, a twist of the head, sudden deceleration or acceleration, a blow or a jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with force transmitted to the head. You can't see a concussion, and more than 90% of all concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Signs and symptoms of a concussion may show up right after the injury or can take hours or days to fully appear. All concussions are potentially serious and, if not managed properly, may result in complications including brain damage and, in rare cases, even death. Even a "ding" or a bump on the head can be serious. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms or signs of a concussion yourself, your child should be immediately removed from play, evaluated by a medical professional and cleared by a medical doctor.

Signs and Symptoms of a Concussion:

Concussion symptoms may appear immediately after the injury or can take several days to appear. Studies have shown that it takes on average 10-14 days or longer for symptoms to resolve and, in rare cases or if the athlete has sustained multiple concussions, the symptoms can be prolonged. Signs and symptoms of concussion can include: (not all-inclusive)

- *Vacant stare or seeing stars
- *Lack of awareness of surroundings
- *Emotions out of proportion to circumstances (inappropriate crying or anger)
- *Headache or persistent headache, nausea, vomiting
- *Altered vision
- *Sensitivity to light or noise
- *Delayed verbal and motor responses
- *Disorientation, slurred or incoherent speech
- *Dizziness, including light-headedness, vertigo (spinning) or loss of equilibrium (being off balance or swimming sensation)
- *Decreased coordination, reaction time
- *Confusion and inability to focus attention
- *Memory loss
- *Sudden change in academic performance or drop in grades
- *Irritability, depression, anxiety, sleep disturbances, easy fatigability
- *In rare cases, loss of consciousness

DANGERS if your child continues to play with a concussion or returns too soon:

Athletes with signs and symptoms of concussion should be removed from activity (play or practice) immediately. Continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of a concussion leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to sustaining another concussion. Athletes who sustain a second concussion before the symptoms of the first concussion have resolved and the brain has had a chance to heal are at risk for prolonged concussion symptoms, permanent disability and even death (called "Second Impact Syndrome" where the brain swells uncontrollably). There is also evidence that multiple concussions can lead to long-term symptoms, including early dementia.

Steps to take if you suspect your child has suffered a concussion:

Any athlete suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the activity immediately. No athlete may return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without written medical clearance from an appropriate health-care professional (AHCP). In Florida, an appropriate health-care professional (AHCP) is defined as either a licensed physician (MD, as per Chapter 458, Florida Statutes), a licensed osteopathic physician (DO, as per Chapter 459, Florida Statutes). Close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours. You should also seek medical care and inform your child's coach if you think your child may have a concussion. Remember, it's better to miss one game than to have your life changed forever. When in doubt, sit them out.

Return to play or practice:

Following physician evaluation, the **return to activity process** requires the athlete to be completely symptom free, after which time they would complete a step-wise protocol under the supervision of a licensed athletic trainer, coach or medical professional and then, receive written medical clearance of an AHCP. For current and up-to-date information on concussions, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/concussioninyouthsports/> or <http://www.seeingstarsfoundation.org>

Statement of Student Athlete Responsibility

Parents and students should be aware of preliminary evidence that suggest repeat concussions, and even hits that do not cause a symptomatic concussion, may lead to abnormal brain changes which can only be seen on autopsy (known as Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE)). There have been case reports suggesting the development of Parkinson's-like symptoms, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), severe traumatic brain injury, depression, and long term memory issues that may be related to concussion history. Further research on this topic is needed before any conclusions can be drawn.

I acknowledge the annual requirement for my child/ward to view "Concussion in Sports-What You Need to Know" at www.nfhslearn.com. I accept responsibility for reporting all injuries and illnesses to my parents, team doctor, athletic trainer, or coach associated with my sport including any signs and symptoms of CONCUSSION. I have read and understand the above information on concussion. I will inform the supervising coach, athletic trainer or team physician immediately if I experience any of these symptoms or witness a teammate with these symptoms. Furthermore, I have been advised of the dangers of participation for myself and that of my child/ward.

Name of Student Athlete (printed)

Signature of Student-Athlete

____/____/____
Date

Name of Parent/Guardian (printed)

Signature of Parent/Guardian

____/____/____
Date

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Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of sports-related death. This policy provides procedures for educational requirements of all paid coaches and recommends added training. Sudden cardiac is a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. If this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. SCA can cause death if it's not treated within minutes.

Symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest include, but not limited to: sudden collapse, no pulse, no breathing.

Warning signs associated with sudden cardiac arrest include: fainting during exercise or activity, shortness of breath, racing heart rate, dizziness, chest pains, extreme fatigue.

It is strongly recommended all coaches, whether paid or volunteer, are regularly trained in CPR and use of an AED. Training is encouraged through agencies that provide hands-on training and other certificates that include an expiration date.

What to do if your student-athlete collapses:

1. Call 911
2. Send for an AED
3. Begin compressions

FHSAA Heat-Related Illnesses Information

People suffer heat-related illness when their bodies cannot properly cool themselves by sweating. Sweating is the body's natural air conditioning, but when a person's body temperature rises rapidly, sweating just isn't enough. Heat-related illnesses can be serious and life threatening. Very high body temperatures may damage the brain or other vital organs, and can cause disability and even death. Heat-related illnesses and deaths are preventable.

Heat Stroke is the most serious heat-related illness. It happens when the body's temperature rises quickly and the body cannot cool down. Heat Stroke can cause permanent disability and death.

Heat Exhaustion is a milder type of heat-related illness. It usually develops after a number of days in high temperature weather and not drinking enough fluids.

Heat Cramps usually affect people who sweat a lot during demanding activity. Sweating reduces the body's salt and moisture and can cause painful cramps, usually in the abdomen, arms, or legs. Heat cramps may also be a symptom of heat exhaustion.

Who's at Risk?

Those at highest risk include the elderly, the very young, people with mental illness and people with chronic diseases. However, even young and healthy individuals can succumb to heat if they participate in demanding physical activities during hot weather. Other conditions that can increase your risk for heat-related illness include obesity, fever, dehydration, poor circulation, sunburn, and prescription drug or alcohol use.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge the annual requirement for my child/ward to view both the "Sudden Cardiac Arrest" and "Heat-Related Illness" courses at www.nfhslearn.org. I acknowledge that the information on Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Heat-Related Illness have been read and understood. I have been advised of the dangers of participation for myself and that of my child/ward.

Name of Student-Athlete (printed)

Signature of Student-Athlete

____/____/____
Date

Name of Parent/Guardian (printed)

Signature of Parent/Guardian

____/____/____
Date