



**SECTION: PROGRAMS**

**POLICY: 123.2**

**TITLE: SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST**

**ORIGINAL:** November 12, 2012

**CURRENT REVISION:** February 1, 2021

**LAST REVIEWED BY THE COMMITTEE:**

**I. PURPOSE**

The Board recognizes the importance of ensuring the safety of student- athletes participating in the District's athletic programs. This policy has been developed to provide guidance for prevention and recognition of sudden cardiac arrest in student-athletes.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

A. Athletic Activity shall mean all of the following:

- a. Interscholastic athletics.
- b. An athletic contest or competition, other than interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated with a school entity, including cheerleading, club-sponsored sports activities, and sports activities sponsored by school-affiliated organizations.
- c. Noncompetitive cheerleading that is sponsored by or associated with a school entity.
- d. Practices, interschool practices and scrimmages for all of the activities listed under paragraphs (a), (b) and (c).

**III. POLICY**

- A. Students participating or desiring to participate in an Athletic Activity and his/her parent/guardian shall, each school year and prior to the participation by the student in the Athletic Activity, shall sign and return to the student's school an acknowledgement of receipt and review of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms and Warning Signs Information Sheet, which shall include information about electrocardiogram testing.
- B. The District will hold an informational meeting and disseminate related information prior to the start of each athletic season for all student-athletes regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest and information about electrocardiogram testing. Participation in these informational meetings can include parents/guardians, coaches, other appropriate school officials, physicians, pediatric and adult cardiologists, and athletic trainers.
- C. Any student-athlete who, as determined by a game official, coach from the student-athlete's team, certified athletic trainer, licensed physician, or other official specifically designated by the student-athlete's school entity, exhibits signs or symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest while participating in an Athletic Activity shall be removed by the student-athlete's coach from participation at that time and shall be prevented from any further Athletic Activity until the student-athlete is evaluated and cleared for return to play in writing by a licensed physician, certified registered nurse practitioner, or cardiologist.

- D. Any student-athlete known to have exhibited signs or symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest prior to or following an Athletic Activity shall be prevented from participating in any Athletic Activity until the student is evaluated and cleared for return to play in writing by a licensed physician, certified registered nurse practitioner, or cardiologist.
- E. In order to help determine whether a student-athlete is ready to return to play, the licensed physician or certified registered nurse practitioner may consult any other licensed or certified medical professional.
- F. Training Course for Coaches
  - a. Once each school year, all District coaches shall complete the sudden cardiac arrest training course offered by a provider approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Each coach who has completed the sudden cardiac arrest training course shall provide the District's Athletic Director a copy of proof of completion of the training course. No coach shall coach any Athletic Activity until the coach completes the required training course in accordance with the Pennsylvania Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention and Electrocardiogram Testing Act.
  - b. All coaches are responsible to follow the procedures and protocols contained in this policy and to comply with the Pennsylvania Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention and Electrocardiogram Testing Act. Failure to do so will result in the imposition of penalties as set forth by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and more specifically in the Pennsylvania Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention and Electrocardiogram Testing Act.

**IV. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

- A. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that:
  - a. The training mandated by this policy is completed by all coaches on an annual basis,
  - b. Student-athletes and their parents/guardians are provided with all notices mandated by this policy;
  - c. The District holds the annual information meeting described in this policy; and
  - d. All other aspects of this policy are enforced.

**V. REFERENCES**

24 P.S. 510  
24 P.S. 511  
24 P.S. 1425