



## **Athlete/Parent/Guardian Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms and Warning Signs Information Sheet and Acknowledgement of Receipt and Review Form**

### **What is sudden cardiac arrest?**

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is when the heart stops beating, suddenly and unexpectedly. When this happens blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. SCA is NOT a heart attack. A heart attack may cause SCA, but they are not the same. A heart attack is caused by a blockage that stops the flow of blood to the heart. SCA is a malfunction in the heart's electrical system, causing the heart to suddenly stop beating.

### **How common is sudden cardiac arrest in the United States?**

There are about 300,000 cardiac arrests outside hospitals each year. About 2,000 patients under 25 die of SCA each year.

### **Are there warning signs?**

Although SCA happens unexpectedly, some people may have signs or symptoms, such as:

- dizziness
- lightheadedness
- shortness of breath
- difficulty breathing
- racing or fluttering heartbeat (palpitations)
- syncope (fainting)
- fatigue (extreme tiredness)
- weakness
- nausea
- vomiting
- chest pains

These symptoms can be unclear and confusing in athletes. Often, people confuse these warning signs with physical exhaustion. SCA can be prevented if the underlying causes can be diagnosed and treated.

### **What are the risks of practicing or playing after experiencing these symptoms?**

There are risks associated with continuing to practice or play after experiencing these symptoms. When the heart stops, so does the blood that flows to the brain and other vital organs. Death or permanent brain damage can occur in just a few minutes. Most people who have SCA die from it.

### **Act 59 – the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act (the Act)**

*PA Department of Health: Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms and Warning Signs Information Sheet and Acknowledgement of Receipt and Review Form. 7/2012*

The Act is intended to keep student-athletes safe while practicing or playing. The requirements of the Act are:

*Information about SCA symptoms and warning signs.*

- Every student-athlete and their parent or guardian must read and sign this form. It must be returned to the school before participation in any athletic activity. A new form must be signed and returned each school year.
- Schools may *also* hold informational meetings. The meetings can occur before each athletic season. Meetings may include student-athletes, parents, coaches and school officials. Schools may also want to include doctors, nurses and athletic trainers.

*Removal from play/return to play*

- Any student-athlete who has signs or symptoms of SCA must be removed from play. The symptoms can happen before, during or after activity. Play includes all athletic activity.
- Before returning to play, the athlete must be evaluated. Clearance to return to play must be in writing. The evaluation must be performed by a licensed physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or cardiologist (heart doctor). The licensed physician or certified registered nurse practitioner may consult any other licensed or certified medical professionals.

I have reviewed and understand the symptoms and warning signs of SCA.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student-Athlete

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student-Athlete's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Parent/Guardian's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_

2016 - 2017

## Pediatric Sudden Cardiac Death Risk Assessment Form

Athlete History Questions	YES	NO
Has your child fainted or passed out DURING exercise, emotion or startle?		
Has your child fainted or passed out AFTER exercise?		
Has your child had extreme fatigue associated with exercise (different from other children)?		
Has your child ever had unusual or extreme shortness of breath during exercise?		
Has your child ever had discomfort, pain or pressure in his chest during exercise?		
Has your child ever been diagnosed with an unexplained seizure disorder?		
Family History Questions	YES	NO
Are there any family members who had an unexpected, unexplained death before age 50?(include SIDS, car accident, drowning, others)		
Are there any family members who died of heart problems before age 50?		
Are there any family members who have had unexplained fainting or seizures?		
<b>Please explain more about any "yes" answers here:</b>		

If you answer yes to any of the questions, your doctor should check your child's heart.