

# Rutgers Preparatory School Athletic Participation Form – Upper School

- This form must be returned to the Athletic Trainer *PRIOR* to participation in athletics.
- *BY LAW* this form must be dated *no more than 90* days prior to the first practice.
- This information may be shared with the coach(s) of your child's sport and other individuals responsible for their care.

Fall
Winter
Spring

Sports Teams (ALL seasons): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M F  
 Athlete's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of accident or emergency, please contact:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate emergency contact:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-existing Medical Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Medications being used: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Any illness or injury requiring medical attention since the beginning of last sports season? Yes / No  
 If yes, please explain and provide appropriate dates: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Has the athlete ever been diagnosed with a concussion? Yes / No If yes, please provide dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Has the athlete fainted or "blacked out"? Yes/No If yes, was this during or immediately after exercise? \_\_\_\_\_

Has there been a recent history of fatigue and unusual tiredness? Yes/No

Since physical exam, has there been any sudden death in the family or has any member of the family under age 50 had a heart attack or "heart trouble"? Yes/No

Has the athlete been advised not to participate in the above sport by a health care professional for any reason? Yes / No

Please answer if applicable:

Carries Asthma Inhaler: Yes / No Carries EpiPen: Yes / No

**I have read and reviewed the school's Concussion Policy and Guidelines for Return to Competition and the Concussion Injury Information provided by the NJSIAA (see pages 5-7). I understand the signs and symptoms of concussions. I accept the risks associated with my student participating in athletics and I understand the risk associated with my student continuing to participate after sustaining a concussion. I understand it is my or my child's responsibility to inform the Rutgers Preparatory School health care staff if he/she is experiencing any signs or symptoms of a concussion. I understand that only a physician can clear my student to participate after sustaining a concussion.**

**I understand that an athlete who sees a physician for an injury or serious illness must be cleared in writing by that physician and/or the primary care physician. The athlete must bring the note of clearance to the Athletic Trainer for that injury. If your child does not have a clearance note from their physician, he/she will not be permitted to participate in RPS athletics.**

I grant permission for the Athletic Trainers at Rutgers Preparatory School to prevent, assess, treat, and rehabilitate injuries that may occur to my child as a result of participating in athletics.

I further give permission for the treatment of my son/daughter by a qualified and licensed medical physician in the event of a medical emergency, which in the opinion of the attending physician, may endanger his/her life, cause disfigurement, physical impairment or undue discomfort if delayed. This authority is granted only after a reasonable effort has been made to contact me.

I certify that I have answered all the questions on this form to the best of my ability.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent or Guardian's Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Athlete's Signature Date

# Rutgers Preparatory School Athletic Department

## Sport Permission Slip

Students Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Sports (ALL seasons): \_\_\_\_\_

I give my child, \_\_\_\_\_, permission to participate in all sports at Rutgers Preparatory School.

Practices or games are held each day and I understand that my child is expected to attend each practice or game and in attire appropriate for the sport. If for some reason he/she cannot make a practice or game he/she will notify the coach in advance.

I also understand that I must make arrangements for my child to be picked up at school following practices and games. All games are posted on the Rutgers Prep athletic website.

Students are expected to maintain good grades in academic classes during the sport season.

My child will adhere to all Rutgers Preparatory School rules as said in the Rutgers Prep Handbook and Honor Code. He/She will follow the rules of the Athletic Department and those of the individual coach.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Sudden Cardiac Death Pamphlet**  
**Sign-Off Sheet**

Name of School: Rutgers Preparatory School

I/We acknowledge that we received and reviewed the Sudden Cardiac Death in Young Athletes pamphlet.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# NJSIAA STEROID TESTING POLICY

## CONSENT TO RANDOM TESTING

In Executive Order 72, issued December 20, 2005, Governor Richard Codey directed the New Jersey Department of Education to work in conjunction with the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) to develop and implement a program of random testing for steroids, of teams and individuals qualifying for championship games.

Beginning in the Fall, 2006 sports season, any student-athlete who possesses, distributes, ingests or otherwise uses any of the banned substances on the attached page, without written prescription by a fully-licensed physician, as recognized by the American Medical Association, to treat a medical condition, violates the NJSIAA's sportsmanship rule, and is subject to NJSIAA penalties, including ineligibility from competition. The NJSIAA will test certain randomly selected individuals and teams that qualify for a state championship tournament or state championship competition for banned substances. The results of all tests shall be considered confidential and shall only be disclosed to the student, his or her parents and his or her school. No student may participate in NJSIAA competition unless the student and the student's parent/guardian consent to random testing.

By signing below, we consent to random testing in accordance with the NJSIAA steroid testing policy. We understand that, if the student or the student's team qualifies for a state championship tournament or state championship competition, the student may be subject to testing for banned substances.

_____ Signature of Student-Athlete	_____ Print Student-Athlete's Name	_____ Date
_____ Signature of Parent/Guardian	_____ Print Parent/Guardian's Name	_____ Date

# Sports-Related Concussion and Head Injury Fact Sheet and Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement Form

A concussion is a brain injury that can be caused by a blow to the head or body that disrupts normal functioning of the brain. Concussions are a type of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), which can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally functions. Concussions can cause significant and sustained neuropsychological impairment affecting problem solving, planning, memory, attention, concentration, and behavior.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 300,000 concussions are sustained during sports related activities nationwide, and more than 62,000 concussions are sustained each year in high school contact sports. Second-impact syndrome occurs when a person sustains a second concussion while still experiencing symptoms of a previous concussion. It can lead to severe impairment and even death of the victim.

Legislation (P.L. 2010, Chapter 94) signed on December 7, 2010, mandated measures to be taken in order to ensure the safety of K-12 student-athletes involved in interscholastic sports in New Jersey. It is imperative that athletes, coaches, and parent/guardians are educated about the nature and treatment of sports related concussions and other head injuries. The legislation states that:

- All Coaches, Athletic Trainers, School Nurses, and School/Team Physicians shall complete an Interscholastic Head Injury Safety Training Program by the 2011-2012 school year.
- All school districts, charter, and non-public schools that participate in interscholastic sports will distribute annually this educational fact to all student athletes and obtain a signed acknowledgement from each parent/guardian and student-athlete.
- Each school district, charter, and non-public school shall develop a written policy describing the prevention and treatment of sports-related concussion and other head injuries sustained by interscholastic student-athletes.
- Any student-athlete who participates in an interscholastic sports program and is suspected of sustaining a concussion will be immediately removed from competition or practice. The student-athlete will not be allowed to return to competition or practice until he/she has written clearance from a physician trained in concussion treatment and has completed his/her district's graduated return-to-play protocol.

## Quick Facts

- Most concussions do not involve loss of consciousness
- You can sustain a concussion even if you do not hit your head
- A blow elsewhere on the body can transmit an "impulsive" force to the brain and cause a concussion

## Signs of Concussions (Observed by Coach, Athletic Trainer, Parent/Guardian)

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Forgets plays or demonstrates short term memory difficulties (e.g. unsure of game, opponent)
- Exhibits difficulties with balance, coordination, concentration, and attention
- Answers questions slowly or inaccurately
- Demonstrates behavior or personality changes
- Is unable to recall events prior to or after the hit or fall

## Symptoms of Concussion (Reported by Student-Athlete)

- Headache
- Nausea/vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double vision or changes in vision
- Sensitivity to light/sound
- Feeling of sluggishness or foginess
- Difficulty with concentration, short term memory, and/or confusion

**\*Please turn over and sign consent on back**

**What Should a Student-Athlete do if they think they have a concussion?**

- **Don't hide it.** Tell your Athletic Trainer, Coach, School Nurse, or Parent/Guardian.
- **Report it.** Don't return to competition or practice with symptoms of a concussion or head injury. The sooner you report it, the sooner you may return-to-play.
- **Take time to recover.** If you have a concussion your brain needs time to heal. While your brain is healing you are much more likely to sustain a second concussion. Repeat concussions can cause permanent brain injury.

**What can happen if a student-athlete continues to play with a concussion or returns to play too soon?**

- Continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of a concussion leaves the student-athlete vulnerable to second impact syndrome.
- Second impact syndrome is when a student-athlete sustains a second concussion while still having symptoms from a previous concussion or head injury.
- Second impact syndrome can lead to severe impairment and even death in extreme cases.

**Should there be any temporary academic accommodations made for Student-Athletes who have suffered a concussion?**

- To recover cognitive rest is just as important as physical rest. Reading, texting, testing-even watching movies can slow down a student-athletes recovery.
- Stay home from school with minimal mental and social stimulation until all symptoms have resolved.
- Students may need to take rest breaks, spend fewer hours at school, be given extra time to complete assignments, as well as being offered other instructional strategies and classroom accommodations.

**Student-Athletes who have sustained a concussion should complete a graduated return-to-play before they may resume competition or practice, according to the following protocol:**

- **Step 1:** Completion of a full day of normal cognitive activities (school day, studying for tests, watching practice, interacting with peers) without reemergence of any signs or symptoms. If no return of symptoms, next day advance.
- **Step 2:** Light Aerobic exercise, which includes walking, swimming, and stationary cycling, keeping the intensity below 70% maximum heart rate. No resistance training. The objective of this step is increased heart rate.
- **Step 3:** Sport-specific exercise including skating, and/or running: no head impact activities. The objective of this step is to add movement.
- **Step 4:** Non contact training drills (e.g. passing drills). Student-athlete may initiate resistance training.
- **Step 5:** Following medical clearance (consultation between school health care personnel and student-athlete's physician), participation in normal training activities. The objective of this step is to restore confidence and assess functional skills by coaching and medical staff.
- **Step 6:** Return to play involving normal exertion or game activity.

For further information on Sports-Related Concussions and other Head Injuries, please visit:

[www.cdc.gov/concussion/sports/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/sports/index.html) [www.nfhs.com](http://www.nfhs.com)  
[www.ncaa.org/health-safety](http://www.ncaa.org/health-safety) [www.bianj.org](http://www.bianj.org) [www.atSNJ.org](http://www.atSNJ.org)

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

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

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

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

# **Rutgers Preparatory School's Concussion Policy and Guidelines for Return to Competition**

Rutgers Preparatory School follows the concussion guidelines set forth by the Zurich Concussion Consensus Statement and the NJSIAA as follows:

## **Return to Play Guidelines**

**At any time during a practice or game that a student athlete experiences any sign(s)/symptom(s) of a concussion he/she will not be allowed to return to play/practice that day.**

**First time concussed athletes with no loss of consciousness and signs/symptoms lasting less than 7 days may return to play when he/she meets the following criteria:**

- 1. Asymptomatic (with no use of medications to mask headache or other symptoms).**
- 2. Completion of the Zurich Activity Progression (see below). This may begin once the athlete is asymptomatic for 24 hours and medically cleared by a physician to do so.**
- 3. ImPACT scores return to within normal limits of baseline (if applicable).**

**Any loss of consciousness (>1min), signs/symptoms lasting 7 days or longer, or repeat concussions will require a minimum 7 day asymptomatic period and medical clearance before beginning the Zurich Activity Progression and will be managed on an individualized basis as approved by the supervising physician. The asymptomatic period for any concussion may be extended at the discretion of the athletic trainer and the supervising physician.**

**Athletes who hand in physician clearance notes inconsistent with this policy may be asked to seek a second opinion.**

## **Zurich Return to Activity Progression**

We follow a stepwise activity progression based on recommendations in the Zurich Consensus Statement from the 4<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Concussion in Sport as follows:

- Step 1: Light aerobic exercise (ie: stationary bike, elliptical machine)
- Step 2: Moderate aerobic exercises (begin running program)
- Step 3: Functional exercises (increase running intensity, begin agility, non-contact sport-specific drills)
- Step 4: Non-contact practice activities
- Step 5: Full contact practice activities
- Step 6: Full game play

**Each step is separated by 24 hours.**

If any symptoms occur, the athlete will drop back to the previous level and try to progress again after 24 hours of rest has passed.

## **ImPACT Testing**

Rutgers Prep requires pre-season baseline and post-concussion neurocognitive testing using the ImPACT® (Immediate Post Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing) software program to assist in the management of head injuries. The 20-minute program is set up in a "video-game" format. It tracks neurocognitive information such as memory, reaction time, brain processing speed and concentration. We conduct a post-concussive test when the athlete is asymptomatic and continue to test the athlete until their scores return to normal. Please note that this program is used only as a tool in making return to play decisions. Additional information about ImPACT® can be found at [www.impacttest.com](http://www.impacttest.com).



# Rutgers Preparatory School

## Use and Misuse of Opioid Drugs Fact Sheet Student-Athlete and Parent/Guardian Sign-Off

In accordance with *N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.10*, public school districts, approved private schools for students with disabilities, and nonpublic schools participating in an interscholastic sports program must distribute this [Opioid Use and Misuse Educational Fact Sheet](#) to all student-athletes. In addition, schools and districts must obtain a signed acknowledgement of receipt of the fact sheet from each student-athlete and the parent or guardian must also sign.

This sign-off sheet is due to the appropriate school personnel as determined by your district prior to the first official practice session of the spring 2018 athletic season (March 2, 2018, as determined by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association) and annually thereafter prior to the student-athlete's first official practice of the school year.

I/We acknowledge that we received and reviewed the Educational Fact Sheet on the Use and Misuse of Opioid Drugs.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# OPIOID USE AND MISUSE EDUCATIONAL FACT SHEET

## Keeping Student-Athletes Safe

School athletics can serve an integral role in students' development. In addition to providing healthy forms of exercise, school athletics foster friendships and camaraderie, promote sportsmanship and fair play, and instill the value of competition.

Unfortunately, sports activities may also lead to injury and, in rare cases, result in pain that is severe or long-lasting enough to require a prescription opioid painkiller.<sup>1</sup> It is important to understand that overdoses from opioids are on the rise and are killing Americans of all ages and backgrounds. Families and communities across the country are coping with the health, emotional and economic effects of this epidemic.<sup>2</sup>

This educational fact sheet, created by the New Jersey Department of Education as required by state law (N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.10), provides information concerning the use and misuse of opioid drugs in the event that a health care provider prescribes a student-athlete or cheerleader an opioid for a sports-related injury. Student-athletes and cheerleaders participating in an interscholastic sports program (and their parent or guardian, if the student is under age 18) must provide their school district written acknowledgment of their receipt of this fact sheet.

### How Do Athletes Obtain Opioids?

In some cases, student-athletes are prescribed these medications. According to research, about a third of young people studied obtained pills from their own previous prescriptions (i.e., an unfinished prescription used outside of a physician's supervision), and 83 percent of adolescents had unsupervised access to their prescription medications.<sup>3</sup> It is important for parents to understand the possible hazard of having unsecured prescription medications in their households. Parents should also understand the importance of proper storage and disposal of medications, even if they believe their child would not engage in non-medical use or diversion of prescription medications.

### What Are Signs of Opioid Use?

According to the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, 12 percent of male athletes and 8 percent of female athletes had used prescription opioids in the 12-month period studied.<sup>3</sup> In the early stages of abuse, the athlete may exhibit unprovoked nausea and/or vomiting. However, as he or she develops a tolerance to the drug, those signs will diminish. Constipation is not uncommon, but may not be reported. One of the most significant indications of a possible opioid addiction is an athlete's decrease in academic or athletic performance, or a lack of interest in his or her sport. If these warning signs are noticed, best practices call for the student to be referred to the appropriate professional for screening,<sup>4</sup> such as provided through an evidence-based practice to identify problematic use, abuse and dependence on illicit drugs (e.g., Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)) offered through the [New Jersey Department of Health](#).

## What Are Some Ways Opioid Use and Misuse Can Be Prevented?

According to the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) Sports Medical Advisory Committee chair, John P. Kripsak, D.O., "Studies indicate that about 80 percent of heroin users started out by abusing narcotic painkillers."

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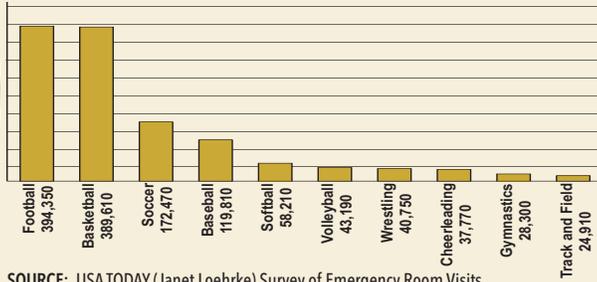
The Sports Medical Advisory Committee, which includes representatives of NJSIAA member schools as well as experts in the field of healthcare and medicine, recommends the following:

- The pain from most sports-related injuries can be managed with non-narcotic medications such as acetaminophen, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications like ibuprofen, naproxen or aspirin. Read the label carefully and always take the recommended dose, or follow your doctor's instructions. More is not necessarily better when taking an over-the-counter (OTC) pain medication, and it can lead to dangerous side effects.<sup>4</sup>
- Ice therapy can be utilized appropriately as an anesthetic.
- Always discuss with your physician exactly what is being prescribed for pain and request to avoid narcotics.
- In extreme cases, such as severe trauma or post-surgical pain, opioid pain medication should not be prescribed for more than five days at a time;
- Parents or guardians should always control the dispensing of pain medications and keep them in a safe, non-accessible location; and
- Unused medications should be disposed of immediately upon cessation of use. Ask your pharmacist about drop-off locations or home disposal kits like Deterra or Medsaway.



### Number of Injuries Nationally in 2012 Among Athletes 19 and Under from 10 Popular Sports

(Based on data from U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System)



SOURCE: USA TODAY (Janet Loehrke) Survey of Emergency Room Visits

## Even With Proper Training and Prevention, Sports Injuries May Occur

There are two kinds of sports injuries. Acute injuries happen suddenly, such as a sprained ankle or strained back. Chronic injuries may happen after someone plays a sport or exercises over a long period of time, even when applying overuse-preventative techniques.<sup>5</sup>

Athletes should be encouraged to speak up about injuries, coaches should be supported in injury-prevention decisions, and parents and young athletes are encouraged to become better educated about sports safety.<sup>6</sup>

## What Are Some Ways to Reduce the Risk of Injury?<sup>7</sup>

Half of all sports medicine injuries in children and teens are from overuse. An overuse injury is damage to a bone, muscle, ligament, or tendon caused by repetitive stress without allowing time for the body to heal. Children and teens are at increased risk for overuse injuries because growing bones are less resilient to stress. Also, young athletes may not know that certain symptoms are signs of overuse.

The best way to deal with sports injuries is to keep them from happening in the first place. Here are some recommendations to consider:



**PREPARE** Obtain the preparticipation physical evaluation prior to participation on a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad.



**CONDITIONING** Maintain a good fitness level during the season and offseason. Also important are proper warm-up and cooldown exercises.



**PLAY SMART** Try a variety of sports and consider specializing in one sport before late adolescence to help avoid overuse injuries.



**ADEQUATE HYDRATION** Keep the body hydrated to help the heart more easily pump blood to muscles, which helps muscles work efficiently.



**TRAINING** Increase weekly training time, mileage or repetitions no more than 10 percent per week. For example, if running 10 miles one week, increase to 11 miles the following week. Athletes should also cross-train and perform sport-specific drills in different ways, such as running in a swimming pool instead of only running on the road.



**REST UP** Take at least one day off per week from organized activity to recover physically and mentally. Athletes should take a combined three months off per year from a specific sport (may be divided throughout the year in one-month increments). Athletes may remain physically active during rest periods through alternative low-stress activities such as stretching, yoga or walking.



**PROPER EQUIPMENT** Wear appropriate and properly fitted protective equipment such as pads (neck, shoulder, elbow, chest, knee, and shin), helmets, mouthpieces, face guards, protective cups, and eyewear. Do not assume that protective gear will prevent all injuries while performing more dangerous or risky activities.

## Resources for Parents and Students on Preventing Substance Misuse and Abuse

The following list provides some examples of resources:

**National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – NJ** promotes addiction treatment and recovery.

**New Jersey Department of Health, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services** is committed to providing consumers and families with a wellness and recovery-oriented model of care.

**New Jersey Prevention Network** includes a [parent's quiz](#) on the effects of opioids.

**Operation Prevention Parent Toolkit** is designed to help parents learn more about the opioid epidemic, recognize warning signs, and open lines of communication with their children and those in the community.

**Parent to Parent NJ** is a grassroots coalition for families and children struggling with alcohol and drug addiction.

**Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey** is New Jersey's anti-drug alliance created to localize and strengthen drug-prevention media efforts to prevent unlawful drug use, especially among young people.

**The Science of Addiction: The Stories of Teens** shares common misconceptions about opioids through the voices of teens.

**Youth IMPACTing NJ** is made up of youth representatives from coalitions across the state of New Jersey who have been impacting their communities and peers by spreading the word about the dangers of underage drinking, marijuana use, and other substance misuse.

<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts Technical Assistance Partnership for Prevention

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<sup>3</sup> New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic

Association (NJSIAA) Sports Medical Advisory Committee (SMAC)

<sup>4</sup> Athletic Management, David Csilan, athletic trainer, Ewing High School, NJSIAA SMAC

<sup>5</sup> National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

<sup>6</sup> USA TODAY

<sup>7</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics

# 2017-18 NJSIAA Banned Drugs

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK WITH THE APPROPRIATE OR DESIGNATED ATHLETICS STAFF BEFORE USING ANY SUBSTANCE**

The NJSIAA bans the following classes of drugs:

- Stimulants
- Anabolic Agents
- Alcohol and Beta Blockers
- Diuretics and Other Masking Agents
- Street Drugs
- Peptide Hormones and Analogues
- Anti-estrogens
- Beta-2 Agonists

**Note: Any substance chemically related to these classes is also banned.**

**THE INSTITUTION AND THE STUDENT-ATHLETE SHALL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR ALL DRUGS WITHIN THE BANNED DRUG CLASS REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED.**

## Drugs and Procedures Subject to Restrictions

- Blood Doping
- Gene Doping
- Local Anesthetics (under some conditions)
- Manipulation of Urine Samples
- Beta-2 Agonists permitted only by prescription and inhalation

## NJSIAA Nutritional/Dietary Supplements Warning

Before consuming any nutritional/dietary supplement product, review the product with the appropriate or designated athletics department staff!

- Dietary supplements, including vitamins and minerals, are not well regulated and may cause a positive drug test result.
- Student-athletes have tested positive and lost their eligibility using dietary supplements.
- Many dietary supplements are contaminated with banned drugs not listed on the label.
- **Any product containing a dietary supplement ingredient is taken at your own risk.**

**NOTE TO STUDENT-ATHLETES: THERE IS NO COMPLETE LIST OF BANNED SUBSTANCES. DO NOT RELY ON THIS LIST TO RULE OUT ANY SUPPLEMENT INGREDIENT. CHECK WITH YOUR ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT STAFF PRIOR TO USING A SUPPLEMENT. REMINDER: ANY DIETARY SUPPLEMENT INGREDIENT IS TAKEN AT THE STUDENT'S OWN RISK.**

## Website Resources

- Sudden Death in Athletes  
[www.cardiachealth.org/sudden-death-in-athletes](http://www.cardiachealth.org/sudden-death-in-athletes)
- Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association  
[www.4hcm.org](http://www.4hcm.org)
- American Heart Association [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)

## Collaborating Agencies:

### American Academy of Pediatrics New Jersey Chapter

3836 Quakerbridge Road, Suite 108  
Hamilton, NJ 08619  
(p) 609-842-0014  
(f) 609-842-0015  
[www.aapnj.org](http://www.aapnj.org)



### American Heart Association

1 Union Street, Suite 301  
Robbinsville, NJ, 08691  
(p) 609-208-0020  
[www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)



### New Jersey Department of Education

PO Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500  
(p) 609-292-5935  
[www.state.nj.us/education/](http://www.state.nj.us/education/)



### New Jersey Department of Health

P. O. Box 360  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360  
(p) 609-292-7837  
[www.state.nj.us/health](http://www.state.nj.us/health)

**Lead Author:** American Academy of Pediatrics,  
New Jersey Chapter

**Written by:** Initial draft by Sushma Raman Hebbar,  
MD & Stephen G. Rice, MD PhD

**Additional Reviewers:** NJ Department of Education,  
NJ Department of Health and Senior Services,  
American Heart Association/New Jersey Chapter, NJ  
Academy of Family Practice, Pediatric Cardiologists,  
New Jersey State School Nurses

**Revised 2014:** Christene DeWitt-Parker, MSN, CSN, RN;  
Lakota Kruse, MD, MPH; Susan Martz, EdM;  
Stephen G. Rice, MD; Jeffrey Rosenberg, MD,  
Louis Teichholz, MD; Perry Weinstock, MD

# SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN YOUNG ATHLETES

## The Basic Facts on Sudden Cardiac Death in Young Athletes



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

American Heart  
Association



Learn and Live



## SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN YOUNG ATHLETES

**S**udden death in young athletes between the ages of 10 and 19 is very rare. What, if anything, can be done to prevent this kind of tragedy?



### What is sudden cardiac death in the young athlete?

Sudden cardiac death is the result of an unexpected failure of proper heart function, usually (about 60% of the time) during or immediately after exercise without trauma. Since the heart stops pumping adequately, the athlete quickly collapses, loses consciousness, and ultimately dies unless normal heart rhythm is restored using an automated external defibrillator (AED).

### How common is sudden death in young athletes?

Sudden cardiac death in young athletes is very rare. About 100 such deaths are reported in the United States per year. The chance of sudden death occurring to any individual high school athlete is about one in 200,000 per year.

Sudden cardiac death is more common: in males than in females; in football and basketball than in other sports; and in African-Americans than in other races and ethnic groups.



### What are the most common causes?

Research suggests that the main cause is a loss of proper heart rhythm, causing the heart to quiver instead of pumping blood to the brain and body. This is called ventricular fibrillation (ven-TRICK-you-lar fib-roo-LAY-shun). The problem is usually caused by one of several cardiovascular abnormalities and electrical diseases of the heart that go unnoticed in healthy-appearing athletes.

The most common cause of sudden death in an athlete is hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (hi-per-TRO-fic CAR-dee-oh-my-OP-a-thee) also called HCM. HCM is a disease of the heart, with abnormal thickening of the heart muscle, which can cause serious heart rhythm problems and blockages to blood flow. This genetic disease runs in families and usually develops gradually over many years.

The second most likely cause is congenital (con-JEN-it-al) (i.e., present from birth) abnormalities of the coronary arteries. This means that these blood vessels are connected to the main blood vessel of the heart in an abnormal way. This differs from blockages that may occur when people get older (commonly called "coronary artery disease," which may lead to a heart attack).

# SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH IN YOUNG ATHLETES

Other diseases of the heart that can lead to sudden death in young people include:

- Myocarditis (my-oh-car-DIE-tis), an acute inflammation of the heart muscle (usually due to a virus).
- Dilated cardiomyopathy, an enlargement of the heart for unknown reasons.
- Long QT syndrome and other electrical abnormalities of the heart which cause abnormal fast heart rhythms that can also run in families.
- Marfan syndrome, an inherited disorder that affects heart valves, walls of major arteries, eyes and the skeleton. It is generally seen in unusually tall athletes, especially if being tall is not common in other family members.

## Are there warning signs to watch for?

In more than a third of these sudden cardiac deaths, there were warning signs that were not reported or taken seriously. Warning signs are:

- Fainting, a seizure or convulsions during physical activity;
- Fainting or a seizure from emotional excitement, emotional distress or being startled;
- Dizziness or lightheadedness, especially during exertion;
- Chest pains, at rest or during exertion;

- Palpitations - awareness of the heart beating unusually (skipping, irregular or extra beats) during athletics or during cool down periods after athletic participation;
- Fatigue or tiring more quickly than peers; or
- Being unable to keep up with friends due to shortness of breath.

## What are the current recommendations for screening young athletes?

New Jersey requires all school athletes to be examined by their primary care physician ("medical home") or school physician at least once per year. The New Jersey Department of Education requires use of the specific Annual Athletic Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form.

This process begins with the parents and student-athletes answering questions about symptoms during exercise (such as chest pain, dizziness, fainting, palpitations or shortness of breath); and questions about family health history.

The primary healthcare provider needs to know if any family member died suddenly during physical activity or during a seizure. They also need to know if anyone in the family under the age of 50 had an unexplained sudden death such as drowning or car accidents. This information must be provided annually for each exam because it is so essential to identify those at risk for sudden cardiac death.

The required physical exam includes measurement of blood pressure and a careful listening examination of the heart, especially for murmurs and rhythm abnormalities. If there are no warning signs reported on the health history and no abnormalities discovered on exam, no further evaluation or testing is recommended.

## When should a student athlete see a heart specialist?

If the primary healthcare provider or school physician has concerns, a referral to a child heart specialist, a pediatric cardiologist, is recommended. This specialist will perform a more thorough evaluation, including an electrocardiogram (ECG), which is a graph of the electrical activity of the heart. An echocardiogram, which is an ultrasound test to allow for direct visualization of the heart structure, will likely also be done. The specialist may also order a treadmill exercise test and a monitor to enable a longer recording of the heart rhythm. None of the testing is invasive or uncomfortable.

## Can sudden cardiac death be prevented just through proper screening?

A proper evaluation should find most, but not all, conditions that would cause sudden death in the athlete. This is because some diseases are difficult to uncover and may only develop later in life. Others can develop following a normal screening evaluation, such as an infection of the heart muscle from a virus.

This is why screening evaluations and a review of the family health history need to be performed on a yearly basis by the athlete's primary healthcare provider. With proper screening and evaluation, most cases can be identified and prevented.

## Why have an AED on site during sporting events?

The only effective treatment for ventricular fibrillation is immediate use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). An AED can restore the heart back into a normal rhythm. An AED is also life-saving for ventricular fibrillation caused by a blow to the chest over the heart (commotio cordis).

Effective September 1, 2014, the New Jersey Department of Education requires that all public and nonpublic schools grades K through 12 shall:

- Have an AED available at every sports event (three minutes total time to reach and return with the AED);
- Have adequate personnel who are trained in AED use present at practices and games;
- Have coaches and athletic trainers trained in basic life support techniques (CPR); and
- Call 911 immediately while someone is retrieving the AED.