



MEMBER ALERT

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

(New Athletic Statute – 7/1/17 – New Training/Form Requirements)

Effective July 1, 2017, all Members are subject to new Education Code Sections 33479-33479.9, commonly known as the Eric Paredes Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act (“Act”). The Act, which applies to competitive athletics, but not to physical education classes, imposes several new requirements:

- The California Department of Education (CDE) must post to its website materials related to sudden cardiac arrest (“SCA”), including health and safety guidelines, training information for coaches, informational videos, and information on symptoms and warning signs for SCA, as well as additional information that might help coaches, parents, and students identify and address these risk exposures. The CDE website is expected to be updated in a manner where Members can either download or have its own website “link” to these items on the CDE website, so that information can be comprehensively and easily shared.

Members must undertake several required steps:

- Coaches’ Training
 - All coaches of an athletic activity (California Interscholastic Federation “CIF” and non-CIF) are immediately required to complete the CDE’s SCA training program provided through CDE’s website, and to retake the training ever two years thereafter (this is in addition to any required CIF training). Although immediately required, the penalty for noncompliance with this obligation - suspension from further coaching participation - is made effective as of July 1, 2019. **From a risk management perspective, however, all Members should ensure that all coaches (paid and volunteers) meet this requirement at the present time.**
- Prior to a Student’s Participation
 - For CIF sports, Members must obtain and retain a copy of CIF’s “information sheet.” The language of the statute does not require, and the current version of the CIF information sheet does not contain, a signature space. This is expected to be changed given the intent of the statute to have a method to ensure the information was actually communicated to parents and students, with the Member then retaining the “signed” form to ensure that the information was actually shared.
 - For non-CIF athletic activities, parents/guardians must sign and return a copy of an acknowledgement of CDE’s SCA information sheet to be posted to its website.
- Student Events During Participation
 - For any student who **passes out or faints** while participating in or immediately following an athletic activity (through direct observation or from reports from any witness or third party), the student **shall** be immediately removed from participation by any supervising coach, trainer, or sport-related health or medical care provider (whether an employee or volunteer).
 - For any student **who exhibits other symptoms of SCA** (seizure, unexplained shortness of breath, dizziness, racing heart rate, etc.) during participation, the student **may** be removed from participation, and the coach, athletic trainer, or health or sport-related health or medical care provider **shall** notify a parent or guardian of the symptoms so the parent or guardian can determine whether additional medical evaluations or care should be sought.
 - Once a student is removed from participation under these standards, he/she cannot further participate in an athletic activity until he/she is evaluated and cleared in writing by a physician, physician’s assistant, or nurse practitioner. **The NBSIA Sports Physical Form has been updated and can be used for this purpose.**

NBSIA’s recommended Athletic Department Handbook has been updated and can be used to provide important training and information to paid and volunteer coaching staffs. The Handbook is available at www.nbsia.org/propertyliability; Sports Physical Forms are at www.nbsia.org/pl-forms-bank.