



Parent/Athlete Concussion Information Sheet

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury that changes the way the brain normally works. A concussion is caused by bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body that causes the head and brain to move rapidly back and forth. Even a “ding,” “getting your bell rung,” or what seems to be a mild bump or blow to the head can be serious.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CONCUSSION?

Signs and symptoms of concussion can show up right after the injury or may not appear or be noticed until days or weeks after the injury.

If an athlete reports **one or more** symptoms of concussion listed below after a bump, blow, or jolt to

Did You Know?

- Most concussions occur *without* loss of consciousness.
- Athletes who have, at any point in their lives, had a concussion have an increased risk for another concussion.
- Young children and teens are more likely to get a concussion and take longer to recover than adults.

the head or body, s/he should be kept out of play the day of the injury and until a health care professional, experienced in evaluating for concussion, says s/he is symptom-free and it’s OK to return to play.

SIGNS OBSERVED BY COACHING STAFF	SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETES
Appears dazed or stunned	Headache or “pressure” in head
Is confused about assignment or position	Nausea or vomiting
Forgets an instruction	Balance problems or dizziness
Is unsure of game, score, or opponent	Double or blurry vision
Moves clumsily	Sensitivity to light
Answers questions slowly	Sensitivity to noise
Loses consciousness (<i>even briefly</i>)	Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes	Concentration or memory problems
Can’t recall events <i>prior</i> to hit or fall	Confusion
Can’t recall events <i>after</i> hit or fall	Just not “feeling right” or “feeling down”

CONCUSSION DANGER SIGNS

In rare cases, a dangerous blood clot may form on the brain in a person with a concussion and crowd the brain against the skull. An athlete should receive immediate medical attention if after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body s/he exhibits any of the following danger signs:

- One pupil larger than the other
- Is drowsy or cannot be awakened
- A headache that not only does not diminish, but gets worse
- Weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- Slurred speech
- Convulsions or seizures
- Cannot recognize people or places
- Becomes increasingly confused, restless, or agitated
- Has unusual behavior
- Loses consciousness (*even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously*)

WHY SHOULD AN ATHLETE REPORT THEIR SYMPTOMS?

If an athlete has a concussion, his/her brain needs time to heal. While an athlete's brain is still healing, s/he is much more likely to have another concussion. Repeat concussions can increase the time it takes to recover. In rare cases, repeat concussions in young athletes can result in brain swelling or permanent damage to their brain. *They can even be fatal.*

Remember

Concussions affect people differently. While most athletes with a concussion recover quickly and fully, some will have symptoms that last for days, or even weeks. A more serious concussion can last for months or longer.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU THINK YOUR ATHLETE HAS A CONCUSSION?

If you suspect that an athlete has a concussion, remove the athlete from play and seek medical attention. Do not try to judge the severity of the injury yourself. Keep the athlete out of play the day of the injury and until a health care professional, experienced in evaluating for concussion, says s/he is symptom-free and it's OK to return to play.

Rest is key to helping an athlete recover from a concussion. Exercising or activities that involve a lot of concentration, such as studying, working on the computer, or playing video games, may cause concussion symptoms to reappear or get worse. After a concussion, returning to sports and school is a gradual process that should be carefully managed and monitored by a health care professional.

It's better to miss one game than the whole season. For more information on concussions, visit: www.cdc.gov/Concussion.

Student-Athlete Name Printed

Student-Athlete Signature

Date

Parent or Legal Guardian Printed

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Keep Their Heart in the Game

A Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information Sheet for Athletes and Parents/Guardians

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 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 victim to collapse. The malfunction is caused by a congenital or genetic defect in the heart's structure.

How common is sudden cardiac arrest in the United States?

As the leading cause of death in the U.S., there are more than 300,000 cardiac arrests outside hospitals each year, with nine out of 10 resulting in death. Thousands of sudden cardiac arrests occur among youth, as it is the #2 cause of death under 25 and the #1 killer of student athletes during exercise.

Who is at risk for sudden cardiac arrest?

SCA is more likely to occur during exercise or physical activity, so student-athletes are at greater risk. While a heart condition may have no warning signs, studies show that many young people do have symptoms but neglect to tell an adult. This may be because they are embarrassed, they do not want to jeopardize their playing time, they mistakenly think they're out of shape and need to train harder, or they simply ignore the symptoms, assuming they will "just go away." Additionally, some health history factors increase the risk of SCA.

FAINTING
is the
#1 SYMPTOM
OF A HEART CONDITION

What should you do if your student-athlete is experiencing any of these symptoms?

We need to let student-athletes know that if they experience any SCA-related symptoms it is crucial to alert an adult and get follow-up care as soon as possible with a primary care physician. If the athlete has any of the SCA risk factors, these should also be discussed with a doctor to determine if further testing is needed. Wait for your doctor's feedback before returning to play, and alert your coach, trainer and school nurse about any diagnosed conditions.

What is an AED?

An automated external defibrillator (AED) is the only way to save a sudden cardiac arrest victim. An AED is a portable, user-friendly device that automatically diagnoses potentially life-threatening heart rhythms and delivers an electric shock to restore normal rhythm. Anyone can operate an AED, regardless of training. Simple audio direction instructs the rescuer when to press a button to deliver the shock, while other AEDs provide an automatic shock if a fatal heart rhythm is detected. A rescuer cannot accidentally hurt a victim with an AED—quick action can only help. AEDs are designed to only shock victims whose hearts need to be restored to a healthy rhythm. Check with your school for locations of on-campus AEDs.



The Cardiac Chain of Survival

On average it takes EMS teams up to 12 minutes to arrive to a cardiac emergency. Every minute delay in attending to a sudden cardiac arrest victim decreases the chance of survival by 10%. Everyone should be prepared to take action in the first minutes of collapse.

Early Recognition of Sudden Cardiac Arrest



Collapsed and unresponsive.
Gasping, gurgling, snorting, moaning or labored breathing noises.
Seizure-like activity.

Early Access to 9-1-1



Confirm unresponsiveness.
Call 9-1-1 and follow emergency dispatcher's instructions.
Call any on-site Emergency Responders.

Early CPR



Begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) immediately. Hands-only CPR involves fast and continual two-inch chest compressions—about 100 per minute.

Early Defibrillation



Immediately retrieve and use an automated external defibrillator (AED) as soon as possible to restore the heart to its normal rhythm. Mobile AED units have step-by-step instructions for a bystander to use in an emergency situation.

Early Advanced Care



Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Responders begin advanced life support including additional resuscitative measures and transfer to a hospital.

Keep Their Heart in the Game

Recognize the Warning Signs & Risk Factors of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA)

Tell Your Coach and Consult Your Doctor if These Conditions are Present in Your Student-Athlete

Potential Indicators That SCA May Occur

- Fainting or seizure, especially during or right after exercise
- Fainting repeatedly or with excitement or startle
- Excessive shortness of breath during exercise
- Racing or fluttering heart palpitations or irregular heartbeat
- Repeated dizziness or lightheadedness
- Chest pain or discomfort with exercise
- Excessive, unexpected fatigue during or after exercise

Factors That Increase the Risk of SCA

- Family history of known heart abnormalities or sudden death before age 50
- Specific family history of Long QT Syndrome, Brugada Syndrome, Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy, or Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Dysplasia (ARVD)
- Family members with unexplained fainting, seizures, drowning or near drowning or car accidents
- Known structural heart abnormality, repaired or unrepaired
- Use of drugs, such as cocaine, inhalants, "recreational" drugs, excessive energy drinks or performance-enhancing supplements

What is CIF doing to help protect student-athletes?

CIF amended its bylaws to include language that adds SCA training to coach certification and practice and game protocol that empowers coaches to remove from play a student-athlete who exhibits fainting—the number one warning sign of a potential heart condition. A student-athlete who has been removed from play after displaying signs or symptoms associated with SCA may not return to play until he or she is evaluated and cleared by a licensed health care provider. Parents, guardians and caregivers are urged to dialogue with student-athletes about their heart health and everyone associated with high school sports should be familiar with the cardiac chain of survival so they are prepared in the event of a cardiac emergency.

I have reviewed and understand the symptoms and warning signs of SCA and the new CIF protocol to incorporate SCA prevention strategies into my student's sports program.

STUDENT-ATHLETE SIGNATURE

PRINT STUDENT-ATHLETE'S NAME

DATE

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

PRINT PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME

DATE

For more information about Sudden Cardiac Arrest visit

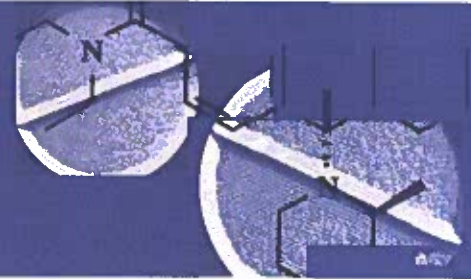
California Interscholastic Federation
<http://www.cifstate.org>

Eric Paredes Save A Life Foundation
<http://www.epsavealife.org>

CardiacWise (20-minute training video)
<http://www.sportsafetyinternational.org>



PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Prescription opioids can be used to help relieve moderate-to-severe pain and are often prescribed following a surgery or injury, or for certain health conditions. These medications can be an important part of treatment but also come with serious risks. It is important to work with your health care provider to make sure you are getting the safest, most effective care.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS AND SIDE EFFECTS OF OPIOID USE?

Prescription opioids carry serious risks of addiction and overdose, especially with prolonged use. An opioid overdose, often marked by slowed breathing, can cause sudden death. The use of prescription opioids can have a number of side effects as well, even when taken as directed:

- Tolerance—meaning you might need to take more of a medication for the same pain relief
- Physical dependence—meaning you have symptoms of withdrawal when a medication is stopped
- Increased sensitivity to pain
- Constipation
- Nausea, vomiting, and dry mouth
- Sleepiness and dizziness
- Confusion
- Depression
- Low levels of testosterone that can result in lower sex drive, energy, and strength
- Itching and sweating

As many as
1 in 4
PEOPLE*

receiving prescription opioids long term in a primary care setting struggles with addiction.
*Findings from one study



RISKS ARE GREATER WITH:

- History of drug misuse, substance use disorder, or overdose
- Mental health conditions (such as depression or anxiety)
- Sleep apnea
- Older age (65 years or older)
- Pregnancy

Avoid alcohol while taking prescription opioids. Also, unless specifically advised by your health care provider, medications to avoid include:

- Benzodiazepines (such as Xanax or Valium)
- Muscle relaxants (such as Soma or Flexeril)
- Hypnotics (such as Ambien or Lunesta)
- Other prescription opioids



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention



American Hospital
Association®

RX

Be Informed!

Make sure you know the name of your medication, how much and how often to take it, and its potential risks & side effects.

KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

Talk to your health care provider about ways to manage your pain that don't involve prescription opioids. Some of these options **may actually work better** and have fewer risks and side effects. Options may include:

- Pain relievers such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and naproxen
- Some medications that are also used for depression or seizures
- Physical therapy and exercise
- Cognitive behavioral therapy, a psychological, goal- directed approach, in which patients learn how to modify physical, behavioral, and emotional triggers of pain and stress.

IF YOU ARE PRESCRIBED OPIOIDS FOR PAIN:

- Never take opioids in greater amounts or more often than prescribed.
- Follow up with your primary health care provider within ____ days.
 - ◇ Work together to create a plan on how to manage your pain.
 - ◇ Talk about ways to help manage your pain that don't involve prescription opioids.
 - ◇ Talk about any and all concerns and side effects.
- Help prevent misuse and abuse.
 - ◇ Never sell or share prescription opioids.
 - ◇ Never use another person's prescription opioids.
- Store prescription opioids in a secure place and out of reach of others (this may include visitors, children, friends, and family).
- Safely dispose of unused prescription opioids: Find your community drug take-back program or your pharmacy mail-back program, or flush them down the toilet, following guidance from the Food and Drug Administration (www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou).
- Visit www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose to learn about the risks of opioid abuse and overdose.
- If you believe you may be struggling with addiction, tell your health care provider and ask guidance or call SAMHSA's National Helpline at 1-800-662-HELP.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I hereby acknowledge that I have received the Opioid Factsheet. I have read and understand its contents.

Print Student/Athlete's Name

Student/Athlete's Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian's Name

Parent or Guardian's Signature

Date

PURSUING VICTORY WITH HONOR

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC STUDENT-ATHLETES

Interscholastic athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship and promote the development of good character and other important life skills. The highest potential of sports is achieved when participants are committed to pursuing victory with honor according to six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship (the “Six Pillars of Character”). This code applies to all student-athletes involved in interscholastic sports in California.

TRUSTWORTHINESS

1. Trustworthiness – be worthy of trust in all I do.
 - Integrity – live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor; do what’s right even when it’s unpopular or personally costly.
 - Honesty – live and compete honorably; don’t lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - Reliability – fulfill commitments; do what I say I will do; be on time to practices and games.
 - Loyalty – be loyal to my school and team; put the team above personal glory.

RESPECT

2. Respect – treat all people with respect all the time and require the same of other student-athletes.
3. Class – live and play with class; be a good sport; be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; give fallen opponents help, compliment extraordinary performance, show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.
4. Disrespectful Conduct – don’t engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks of a sexual or racial nature, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
5. Respect Officials – treat contest officials with respect; don’t complain about or argue with official calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.

RESPONSIBILITY

6. Importance of Education – be a student first and commit to getting the best education I can. Be honest with myself about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing on a professional level and remember that many universities will not recruit student-athletes that do not have a serious commitment to their education, the ability to succeed academically or the character to represent their institution honorably.
7. Role-Modeling – Remember, participation in sports is a privilege, not a right and that I am expected to represent my school, coach and teammates with honor, on and off the field. Consistently exhibit good character and conduct yourself as a positive role model. Suspension or termination of the participation privilege is within the sole discretion of the school administration.
8. Self-Control – exercise self-control; don’t fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration; have the strength to overcome the temptation to retaliate.
9. Healthy Lifestyle – safeguard your health; don’t use any illegal or unhealthy substances including alcohol, tobacco and drugs or engage in any unhealthy techniques to gain, lose or maintain weight.
10. Integrity of the Game – protect the integrity of the game; don’t gamble. Play the game according to the rules.

FAIRNESS

11. Be Fair – live up to high standards of fair play; be open-minded; always be willing to listen and learn.

CARING

12. Concern for Others – demonstrate concern for others; never intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to myself or others.
13. Teammates – help promote the well-being of teammates by positive counseling and encouragement or by reporting any unhealthy or dangerous conduct to coaches.

CITIZENSHIP

14. Play by the Rules – maintain a thorough knowledge of and abide by all applicable game and competition rules.
15. Spirit of rules – honor the spirit and the letter of rules; avoid temptations to gain competitive advantage through improper gamesmanship techniques that violate the highest traditions of sportsmanship.

An athlete may be disciplined or removed from a team for violation of any of the provisions of the Pursuing Victory with Honor Code of Conduct.