

KIPP: Nashville Board of Directors

Monitoring:	Descriptor Term:	Policy:	Issued:
Annually	Sudden Cardiac Arrest	6414	9/6/19

1 Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a condition in which the heartbeat stops abruptly and
2 unexpectedly, preventing blood flow to the brain, the heart, and the rest of the body. In order
3 to ensure the safety of students that participate in interscholastic athletics, it is imperative that
4 student athletes, coaches, and parents are educated about the nature and treatment of sudden
5 cardiac arrest. KIPP Nashville recognizes that sudden cardiac arrest is a serious health issue and
6 should be treated as such.

7 KIPP Nashville adopts the guidelines and other pertinent information and forms developed by
8 the Tennessee Department of Health to inform and educate coaches, school administrators,
9 student athletes, and parent(s) / guardian(s) of the nature, risk and symptoms of sudden
10 cardiac arrest. These guidelines and materials may be viewed on the Department of Health's
11 website and shall be made available to interested parties.

12 This policy shall govern all activities and those individuals involved in those activities which
13 constitute an organized athletic game or competition against another team or in practice or
14 preparation for an organized game or competition. It does not govern those activities or
15 individuals involved in those activities which are entered into for instructional purposes only or
16 those that are incidental to a nonathletic program or lesson.

17 **REQUIRED TRAINING¹**

18 The school's director of operations shall ensure that each school's athletic director and
19 coaches, employed or volunteer, annually complete the **National Federation of State High
20 School Associations Elective Course – Sudden Cardiac Arrest** online course. This course may be
21 accessed online at www.nfhslearn.com.

22 Prior to the annual initiation of practice or competition, the following persons must review and
23 sign a sudden cardiac arrest information sheet approved by the Tennessee Department of
24 Health: each school athletic director, licensed healthcare professionals (if appointed), and each
25 coach, employed or volunteer.

26 In addition, prior to the annual initiation of practice or competition, all student athletes and
27 their parent(s) / guardian(s) shall review the sudden cardiac arrest information sheet approved
28 by the Tennessee Department of Health. A form confirming this review shall be signed and
29 returned by the student athlete, if the athlete is eighteen (18) years of age or older; or by the
30 student athlete's parent(s) / guardian(s), for athletes younger than eighteen (18) years of age.

1 All documentation of the completion of a sudden cardiac arrest education course program and
2 signed sudden cardiac arrest information sheets shall be maintained by the school for a period
3 of three (3) years.

4 **REMOVAL FROM ATHLETICS¹**

5 Any student athlete who shows signs, symptoms and/or behaviors consistent with sudden
6 cardiac arrest during or after an athletic activity or competition shall be immediately removed
7 for evaluation by a licensed healthcare professional, if available, and if not, by a coach or other
8 designated individuals. Signs, symptoms and/or behaviors include, but are not limited to:
9 passing out; fainting; unexplained shortness of breath; chest pains; dizziness; racing heart rate;
10 and extreme fatigue.

11 Student athletes who have been removed from an athletic activity or competition shall not
12 return to any supervised team activities involving physical exertion, including games,
13 competitions, or practices, until the student athlete has been evaluated by and received written
14 clearance on forms approved by the Department of Health from a licensed health care provider
15 for a full or graduated return.

Legal References

1. TCA 68-6-101, et. seq

Cross References

SBE LEA Policy 6413
TSBA 6.414