

# ENHS/NORTHERN SECTION CIF CONCUSSION INFORMATION SHEET

Pursuant to Education Code Section 49475, before a Student may try-out, practice, or compete in any District sponsored extracurricular athletic program, including interscholastic, intramural, or other sport or recreation programs (including cheer/dance teams and marching band), but excluding physical education courses for credit, the student and parent/legal guardian must review and execute this Concussion and Head Injury Information Sheet. Once signed, this document is good for one academic year (Fall through Spring) and is applicable to all athletic programs in which the student may participate.

A concussion is a brain injury and all brain injuries are serious. They are caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a flow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. They can run from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Even though most concussions are mild, **all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly.** In other words, even a “ding” or a bump on the head can be serious. You can’t see a concussion and most sports concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Signs and symptoms of concussion may show up right after the injury or can take hours or days to fully appear. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms or signs of concussion yourself, seek medical attention right away.

<b>Symptoms may include one or more of the following:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headaches</li> <li>• “Pressure in head”</li> <li>• Nausea or vomiting</li> <li>• Neck pain</li> <li>• Balance problems or dizziness</li> <li>• Blurred, double, or fuzzy vision</li> <li>• Sensitivity to light or noise</li> <li>• Feeling sluggish or slowed down</li> <li>• Feeling foggy or groggy</li> <li>• Drowsiness</li> <li>• Change in sleep patterns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amnesia</li> <li>• “Don’t feel right”</li> <li>• Fatigue or low energy</li> <li>• Sadness</li> <li>• Nervousness or anxiety</li> <li>• Irritability</li> <li>• More emotional</li> <li>• Confusion</li> <li>• Concentration or memory problems (forgetting game plays)</li> <li>• Repeating the same question/comment</li> </ul>

<b>Signs observed by teammates, parents and coaches include:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appears dazed</li> <li>• Vacant facial expression</li> <li>• Confused about assignment</li> <li>• Forgets plays</li> <li>• Is unsure of game, score, or opponent</li> <li>• Moves clumsily or displays incoordination</li> <li>• Answers questions slowly</li> <li>• Slurred speech</li> <li>• Shows behavior or personality changes</li> <li>• Can’t recall events prior to hit</li> <li>• Seizures or convulsions</li> <li>• Any change in typical behavior or personality</li> <li>• Loses consciousness</li> </ul>

**What can happen if my child keeps on playing with a concussion or returns too soon?**

Athletes with the signs and symptoms of concussion should be removed from play immediately. Continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of a concussion leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury. There is an increased risk of significant damage from a concussion for a period of time that concussion occurs, particularly if the athlete suffers another concussion before completely recovering from the first one. This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling (second impact syndrome) with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athlete will often under report symptoms of injuries. And concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key for student-athlete's safety.

**If you think your child has suffered a concussion**

Any athlete even suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the game or practice immediately. No athlete may return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without medical clearance. Close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours. The new CIF Bylaw 313 now requires implementation of long and well-established return to play concussion guidelines that have been recommended for several years:

"A student-athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be removed from competition at that time and for the remainder of the day."

**and**

"A student-athlete who has been removed may not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussion and received written clearance to return to play from that health care provider."

You should also inform your child's coach if you think that your child may have a concussion. Remember it's better to miss one game than miss the whole season. And when in doubt, the athlete sits out.

For current and up-to-date information on concussions you can go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ConcussionInYouthSports/>

Adapted from the CDC and the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Concussion in Sport  
Document created 5/20/2010

*See page 5 of this document to certify that you have read and understand the information provided on this concussion information sheet.*

# 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.

*Cardiac Chain of Survival Courtesy of Parent Heart Watch*

# 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.

*See page 5 of this document to certify that you have read and understood the information provided on this Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) Information Sheet.*

### 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>

National Federation of High Schools  
(20-minute training video)  
<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61032>



## East Nicolaus Athletic Handbook Agreement, Consent, Risk Assumption and Acknowledgement Form

This document must be signed by both the athlete and the parent guardian of the athlete. This document is to ensure that you have received the rules, expectations, requirements and bylaws that govern East Nicolaus Union High School District Athletic Programs.

By signing this document you certify that you have read and understand all the information within the East Nicolaus High School Athletic Handbook including all information regarding concussions and sudden cardiac arrest (SCA).

By signing this document you certify that you understand that participation in athletic activity may involve injury of some type to either you or a fellow student athlete. Such injury can include direct physical and possible crippling injury to one's body and or possibility of emotional injury experience as a result of witnessing or actually inflicting injury to another. The severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, scrapes, or muscle strains to more serious bone, joint, and ligament injuries. Complete paralysis and even death, is also a possibility. Such injury can impair one's general physical and mental health and hinder one's future ability to earn a living, to engage in other business, social and recreational activities, and generally to enjoy life.

The purpose of this warning is to bring to your attention the existence of potential dangers associated with athletic participation, and to aid you in making an informed decision as to whether you or your child should participate in athletics. As a condition of such participation, East Nicolaus High School is making it mandatory for the student and parent/guardian to sign the assumption of risk. In addition, its purpose is to make you aware that as a student athlete, or as a parent/guardian of a student athlete, it is your responsibility to learn about and/or to inquire about concerns that you might have at any time regarding athletic safety and the safety of the school district's athletic programs.

*I hereby certify that I have read and completely understand all rules, regulations, policies, requirements, and expectations of the East Nicolaus High School Athletic Programs as outlined in the **ENHS Athletic Handbook**. I understand the risks that are associated with athletic participation.*

_____ Athlete's printed name	_____ Athlete's Signature	_____ Date
_____ Parent/Guardian's printed name	_____ Parent/Guardian's Signature	_____ Date

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

_____ Athlete's printed name	_____ Athlete's Signature	_____ Date
_____ Parent/Guardian's printed name	_____ Parent/Guardian's Signature	_____ Date

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

_____ Athlete's printed name	_____ Athlete's Signature	_____ Date
_____ Parent/Guardian's printed name	_____ Parent/Guardian's Signature	_____ Date