

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSVILLE BOARD POLICY

STUDENTS

STUDENT HEALTH AND WELFARE

SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST AWARENESS IN YOUTH ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES 453.13-RULE

Per section 118.2935(1) of the state statutes, a District-operated “youth athletic activity” means any organized indoor or outdoor athletic activity sponsored and supervised by the District in which the participants, a majority of whom are under 19 years of age, are engaged in an athletic game or competition against another team, club, or entity, or in practice or preparation for an organized athletic game or competition against another team, club, or entity. A "youth athletic activity" does not include a physical activity that is incidental to a nonathletic program.

District-operated activities that meet the statutory definition of a “youth athletic activity” are “youth athletic activities” for purposes of this rule.

In addition, although not considered a ‘youth athletic activity’ under the applicable statutory definition, the following District-operated activities, which do not engage in competitions, shall also be considered 'youth athletic activities' for purposes of the procedures established in this rule: football cheer, pom.

A. Distribution of Information Sheets Addressing Sudden Cardiac Arrest

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO DISTRICT PERSONNEL AND COACHES/ACTIVITY SUPERVISORS: State law requires the District to distribute and collect signed copies of the information sheets that address **concussions and other head injuries** to **all** individuals who wish to participate in any District-operated youth athletic activity, including those activities that are offered to persons who are under 12 years of age. In contrast, the additional state mandates regarding information about **sudden cardiac arrest** apply only to those youth athletic activities that are offered to individuals who are 12 years of age or older.

In connection with any District-operated youth athletic activity that is offered to persons who are 12 years of age or older, the Athletic/Activities Director shall ensure that the concussion/head injury information sheets distributed by the District also include the state-mandated information regarding the nature and risk of sudden cardiac arrest during youth athletic activities. As further provided by state law and under District rules, no person may participate in a District-operated youth athletic activity (inclusive of competitions, practices, and other preparatory physical activities occurring as part of any youth athletic activity season) unless the person has returned a properly-signed information sheet or the relevant signature portion thereof.

B. Emergency Care and Potential Removal from Participation and Return to Participation

The District expects coaches and other District personnel and agents who are involved in making decisions regarding any student’s or other youth’s participation in a District-operated youth athletic activity to exercise due care in connection with such decisions whenever there are known medical concerns that may affect a participant’s ability to engage in the activity at an acceptable level of safety.

1. If presented with an emergency that may involve an imminent and serious danger to a participant’s health, including a concern that an individual may be experiencing sudden cardiac arrest, it will be appropriate for District personnel/agents to contact 911 emergency services as aid is rendered. In other situations that involve a serious medical concern but less immediacy, the appropriate approach may involve (1) consulting with the school nurse and/or the youth’s parent/guardian; and (2) advising or requiring the participant’s parent or guardian to have the participant evaluated by a qualified health care provider.”

2. At a **minimum**, and specifically in connection with concerns about a risk of possible sudden cardiac arrest, a District coach (or other person holding an equivalent position) shall **not** permit a student or other youth to continue to participate in a District-operated youth athletic activity following any known incident that occurs in connection with the activity that involved fainting, sudden collapse, any loss of consciousness, self-reported chest pain, or any known abnormal cardiac event (such as palpitations or other irregular heartbeats) **until** the participant is evaluated by a qualified health care provider and receives a written clearance to participate in the activity from the health care provider.
3. Additional information and direction is provided in the District's emergency procedures and health protocols for school/athletic activities and through first aid training that is available to coaches and other activity supervisors.
4. Automated External Defibrillators (AED) equipment are available in the following locations:
 - Administration/Lobby/Auditorium: Concession Stand Area
 - Elementary School: Hallway near Food Service Area and Hallway near Elementary Office
 - High School: Lobby/Hallway near Gymnasium
 - Track/Football Field: Concession Stand Area

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