



Florida High School Athletic Association

# Consent and Release from Liability Certificate for Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Concussion

This completed form must be kept on file by the school. This form is valid for 365 calendar days from the date of the most recent signature.

## Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of sports-related death. This policy provides procedures for educational requirements of all paid coaches and recommends added training. Sudden cardiac arrest is a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. If this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. SCA can cause death if it's not treated within minutes.

Symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest include, but not limited to: sudden collapse, no pulse, no breathing.

Warning signs associated with sudden cardiac arrest include: fainting during exercise or activity, shortness of breath, racing heart rate, dizziness, chest pains, extreme fatigue.

It is strongly recommended all coaches, whether paid or volunteer, are regularly trained in CPR and the use of an AED. Training is encouraged through agencies that provide hands-on training and offer certificates that include an expiration date.

Automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) are required at all FHSAA State Series games, tournaments and meets. The FHSAA also strongly recommends that they be available at all preseason and regular season events as well along with coaches/individuals trained in CPR.

What to do if your student-athlete collapses:

1. Call 911
2. Send for an AED
3. Begin compressions

## Concussions

Concussion is a brain injury. Concussions, as well as all other head injuries, are serious. They can be caused by a bump, a twist of the head, sudden deceleration or acceleration, a blow or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with force transmitted to the head. You can't see a concussion, and more than 90% of all 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. All concussions are potentially serious and, if not managed properly, may result in complications including brain damage and, in rare cases, even death. Even a "ding" or a bump on the head can be serious. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms or signs of concussion yourself, your child should be immediately removed from play, evaluated by a medical professional and cleared by a medical doctor.

I acknowledge the annual requirement for my child/ward to view "Concussion in Sports-What You Need to Know" at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com). As well, I acknowledge optional educational opportunities in cardiac arrest at [www.sportsafetyinternational.org](http://www.sportsafetyinternational.org). Please go to [www.fhsaa.org/departments/health](http://www.fhsaa.org/departments/health) for further instructions to view the courses.

**I have been advised of the dangers of participation for myself and that of my child/ward.**

Name of Student-Athlete (printed)	Signature of Student-Athlete	Date    /    /
-----------------------------------	------------------------------	----------------

Name of Parent/Guardian (printed)	Signature of Parent/Guardian	Date    /    /
-----------------------------------	------------------------------	----------------