

# 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>

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

