

Dyer County Board of Education

Descriptor Term:

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Descriptor Code:

IDEF

Rescinds:

IDEF

Board Approved:

8/3/21

Board Approved:

3/1/16

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

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

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

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18 Each year the following persons must complete a sudden cardiac arrest education program approved by
19 the Tennessee Department of Health: all employed and volunteer coaches and athletic directors.

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21 Each year, prior to the initiation of practice or competition, the following persons must review, sign,
22 and return to the director of schools a sudden cardiac arrest information sheet approved by the
23 Tennessee Department of Health: all employed and volunteer coaches, athletic directors, and any
24 appointed licensed health care professional.

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26 In addition, each year, prior to the initiation of practice or competition, all athletes and the athlete's
27 parent/guardian must review a sudden cardiac arrest information sheet which shall be signed and
28 returned by the athlete, if the athlete is 18 years of age or older; or, by the athlete's parent/guardian, for
29 athletes younger than 18 years of age.

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

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34 Any athlete who passes out or faints while participating in an athletic activity or immediately following
35 an athletic activity or who exhibits any of the following symptoms: unexplained shortness of breath,
36 chest pains, dizziness, racing heart rate, or extreme fatigue shall immediately be removed from the
37 activity or competition.

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39 Any athlete who has been removed from play shall not return to practice or competition during which
40 the athlete experienced symptoms consistent with sudden cardiac arrest and not return to play or
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1 participate in any supervised team activities involving physical exertion, including games, competition,
2 or practice, until the athlete is evaluated by a health care provider and receives written clearance from
3 the health care provider for a full or graduated return to play.
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5 After an athlete who has experienced symptoms consistent with sudden cardiac arrest has been evaluated
6 and received clearance for a graduated return to play from a health care provider, then a licensed health
7 care professional is permitted to manage the athlete’s graduated return to play based upon the health care
8 provider’s recommendation.
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10 For purposes of this policy, a “health care provider” is a Tennessee licensed medical doctor (M.D.), or an
11 osteopathic physician (D.O.)
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28 ¹T.C.A. 68-54-101 et. seq.
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