

COACHES AND MODERATORS- STUDENT HEALTH RESPONSIBILITIES

Pennsylvania State law requires all schools, coaches and moderators to have required training, and to take certain actions with regard to student health concerns.

1. Sudden Cardiac Arrest

- a. All students and parents at PIAA member schools are required to sign an acknowledgement of receipt of sudden cardiac arrest symptoms and warning signs information sheet each year, prior to participating in any sports activity, both interscholastic and other competitive sports activity, including intramural and school affiliated club sports. Non-competitive cheerleading is included with these activities.
- b. All coaches and moderators are required to complete a sudden cardiac arrest training course annually, prior to assuming coaching duties.
- c. Should a student participant exhibit any of the signs of sudden cardiac arrest prior to, during, or following a practice or contest, the student is to be removed immediately from the practice or contest. The student may not return to practice or play until certified in writing by a licensed physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or cardiologist.
- d. Any coach or moderator who fails to remove a student from play, or permits a student to return without a written release, is suspended for the remainder of the season or school year without pay. A second failure to observe this policy will result in permanent dismissal.

2. Concussions

- a. All students and parents at PIAA member schools are required to sign an acknowledgement of receipt of concussion and traumatic brain injury information sheet each year, prior to participating in any sports activity, both interscholastic and other competitive sports activity, including intramural and school affiliated club sports. Non-competitive cheerleading is included with these activities.
- b. Schools are encouraged to hold information sessions annually for students and parents on this topic.
- c. All coaches and moderators are required to complete a concussion management certification training course annually, prior to assuming coaching duties.
- d. Should a student participant exhibit any of the signs of concussion or traumatic brain injury prior to, during, or following a practice or contest, the student is to be removed immediately from the practice or contest. The student may not return to practice or play until certified in writing by a licensed physician.
- e. Any coach or moderator who fails to remove a student from play, or permits a student to return without a written release, is suspended for the remainder of the season or school year without pay. A second failure to observe this policy will result in permanent dismissal.

3. Prevention of Heat Illness

Heat Illness is a concern where there are hot and/or humid conditions for practice or competition. Coaches and Athletic Trainers are required to comply with PIAA guidelines on heat acclimatization for student athletes. Students and parents should be advised of the signs of Heat Illness and advised on steps to prevent, and to respond appropriately to any indication of heat related stress.

4. Each Secondary School will prepare their own policy and protocols to implement the diocesan policy and state law.

Policy adopted: July 30, 2012

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RWG/Bishop of Harrisburg