

When is a student athlete required to be removed from play?

Any student who collapses or faints while participating in an athletic activity is required by law to be removed by the coach from participation at that time.

What is required for a student athlete to return to play?

Any student who is removed or prevented from participating in an athletic activity is not allowed to return to participation until evaluated and cleared for return to participation in writing by a qualified health care provider such as a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice nurse is recommended. If the health care provider has concerns, a referral to a pediatric cardiologist is recommended.

What are the current recommendations for screening student athletes?

A complete annual sports preparticipation examination based on recommendations from the American Heart Association (AHA), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and American College of Cardiology (ACC) is the cornerstone of screening for preventable causes of SCA. Each year student athletes in Oklahoma are required to have a Sports Preparticipation Physical Examination based on these recommendations completed by a health care provider such as a physician, physician's assistant, or advanced nurse practitioner and filed with the student athlete's school prior to beginning practice. The Sports Preparticipation Examination includes a personal and family health history to screen for risk factors or warning signs of SCA and measurement of blood pressure and a careful listening to the heart, especially for murmurs and rhythm abnormalities.

Noninvasive testing such as an electrocardiogram (ECG) or echocardiogram (ECHO) may be utilized by your health care provider if the sports preparticipation examination reveals an indication for these tests. Screening using an ECG and/or and ECHO is available to student athletes as an option from their personal health care provider, but is not mandatory, and is generally not routinely recommended by either the AHA, AAP or ACC.

What is the treatment for Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

- **RECOGNIZE Sudden Cardiac Arrest**
 - Collapsed and unresponsive
 - Abnormal breathing
 - Seizure-like activity
- **CALL 9-1-1**
 - Call for help and for an AED
- **CPR**
 - Begin chest compressions
 - Push hard/fast (100/min)
- **AED**
 - Use an AED as soon as possible
- **CONTINUE CARE**
 - Continue CPR and AED until EMS arrives

All schools and teams should be prepared to respond to a cardiac emergency. Young athletes who suffer SCA are collapsed and unresponsive and may appear to have brief seizure-like activity or abnormal breathing (gaspings). Time is critical and an immediate response is vital. An AED should be placed in a location that is readily accessible. AEDs are safe, portable devices that read and analyze the heart rhythm and provide an electric shock (if necessary) to restart a normal heart rhythm.

***Remember, to save a life: recognize SCA, call 9-1-1,
begin CPR, and use an AED as soon as possible!***