



**GEORGIA INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
STUDENT / PARENT CONCUSSION AWARENESS FORM**

DANGERS OF CONCUSSION

Concussions at all levels of sports have received a great deal of attention and a State Law has been passed to address this issue. Adolescent athletes are particularly vulnerable to the effects of concussion. Once considered little more than a minor "ding" to the head it is now understood that a concussion has the potential to result in death, or changes in brain function (either short-term or long term). A concussion is a brain injury that results in a temporary disruption of normal brain function. A concussion occurs when the brain is violently rocked back and forth or twisted inside the skull as a result of a blow to the head or body. Continued participation in any sport following a concussion can lead to worsening concussion symptoms, as well as increased risk for further injury to the brain, and even death.

Player and parental education in this area is crucial – that is the reason for this document. Refer to it regularly. This form must be signed by a parent or guardian of each student who wishes to participate in GIAA Athletics. One copy needs to be returned to the school, and one retained at home.

COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CONCUSSION

- Headache, dizziness, poor balance, moves clumsily, reduced energy level / tiredness.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Blurred vision, sensitivity to light and sounds.
- Fogginess of memory, difficulty concentrating, slowed thought processes, confused about surroundings or game assignments.
- Unexplained changes in behavior and personality.
- Loss of consciousness (NOTE: This does not occur in all concussion episodes.)

GIAA Concussion Policy: If a Coach observes a Student-Athlete exhibit any sign, symptom, or behavior consistent with a concussion or head injury, the Coach must immediately remove that Student-Athlete from practice, conditioning, or game. The Student-Athlete may not return to practice, conditioning, or game until a Health Care Provider has determined that the Student-Athlete has not suffered a concussion. In the case where a Health Care Provider has determined that the Student-Athlete has suffered a concussion, the Student-Athlete may not resume practice, conditioning, or participation in games until medically determined capable of doing so for full or graduated return. In no circumstance may a Student-Athlete return to practice, conditioning, or a game on the same day that a concussion has been diagnosed by a Health Care Provider or cannot be ruled out

By signing this Concussion Awareness Form, we give permission to the school to transfer this Form to all sports that this child may play. We are aware of the dangers of concussions and this signed Form will represent myself and this child during the current school year _____. This form will be stored with the Athlete's Physical Form and any other accompanying forms required by the Georgia Independent Athletic Association (GIAA).

WE HAVE READ THIS FORM AND UNDERSTAND THE FACTS REPRESENTED IN IT.

SCHOOL NAME: _____

STUDENT'S NAME: _____ STUDENT'S SIGNATURE: _____
(PRINTED)

PARENT'S NAME: _____ PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____
(PRINTED)

DATE SIGNED: _____



GEORGIA INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

HEAT POLICY AWARENESS FORM

Definitions:

- A. **"Practice"** means the period of time that a student engages in coach-supervised, school-approved preparation for sport whether indoors or outdoors, including Acclimation Activities, conditioning, weight training, distance running, and scrimmages, but not including a Walk Through.
- B. **"Walk Through"** means the period of time, not exceeding one hour per day, that a student engages in coach-supervised, school-approved sessions, whether indoors or outdoors, to work on formations, schemes, and techniques without physical contact. No protective equipment is worn during a Walk Through. No conditioning activities are held during a Walk Through. A Walk Through may not be held on a day when two practices are being held.
- C. **"Acclimation Activities"** in football means practicing in shorts, shoulder pads, and helmets for five consecutive weekdays prior to practicing in full pads. No contact will be allowed during this period. Starting Date for Acclimation is July 22.
- D. **"WBGT"** stands for the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature reading, which is a composite temperature used to estimate the effect of air temperature, humidity, and solar radiation on the human body, expressed in degrees. It is not equated with the "Heat Index."

Policy: All Member Schools will utilize at each Practice a scientifically approved instrument that measures WBGT. At the following WBGT readings the corresponding activity, hydration, and rest break guidelines apply:

Under 82.0

Normal activities. Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour of a minimum duration of 3 minutes each during Practice.

82.0 - 86.9

Use discretion for intense or prolonged exercise. Watch at-risk students carefully. Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour of a minimum of four-minute duration each during Practice.

87.0 - 89.9

Maximum outdoor Practice time is two hours. For football, students are restricted to helmets, shoulder pads, and shorts during Practice. All protective equipment must be removed for conditioning activities. For all sports, provide at least four separate rest breaks each hour of a minimum of four minutes each during Practice.

90.0 - 92.0

Maximum outdoor Practice time is one hour. No protective equipment may be worn during outdoor Practice and there may be no outdoor conditioning activities. There must be twenty minutes of rest breaks provided during the hour of outdoor Practice.

Over 92

No outdoor activities or exercise. Delay outdoor Practice until a lower WBGT reading occurs.

The following guidelines apply to **hydration and rest breaks**:

- Rest time should involve both unlimited hydrations (water or electrolyte drinks) and rest without any activity involved.
- For football, helmets should be removed during rest time.
- The site of the rest time should be a cooling zone not in direct sunlight, such as indoors, under a tent, or under a shade tree.
- When the WBGT is over 86, ice towels and spray bottles filled with ice water should be available in the cooling zone and cold immersion tubs will be available for a student showing signs of heat illness. A cold immersion tub may be anything, including a shower or wading pool that can be adapted to immerse a student in cold water and ice which is available within two-minutes travel from an outdoor Practice facility.

The following guidelines apply to **Practice**:

- All Member Schools must hold Acclimation Activities.
- No two-a-day Practices may exceed four hours for both sessions; no single Practice during two-a-days may exceed two hours. A three-hour rest period must be observed between the two sessions.
- No single Practice may last more than three hours.

Restrictions based on outdoor WBGT readings do not apply to indoor Practice where indoor air temperature is 85 degrees or less.

Penalties

Member Schools violating this policy will be fined a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$1,000 for the first offense. A Member School may be removed from membership for repeat violations.

By signing this Heat Policy Form, we give permission to the school to transfer this Form to all sports that this child may play. We are aware of the dangers of heat and this signed Form will represent myself and this child during the current school year _____. This form will be stored with the Athlete's Physical Form and any other accompanying forms required by the Georgia Independent Athletic Association (GIAA).

SCHOOL: _____

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

STUDENT ATHLETE'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____



GEORGIA INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
STUDENT / PARENT SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST AWARENESS FORM

LEARN THE EARLY WARNING SIGNS

If you or your child has had one or more of these signs, see your primary care physician:

- Fainting suddenly and without warning, especially during exercise or in response to loud sounds like doorbells, alarm clocks, or ringing phones.
- Unusual chest pain or shortness of breath during exercise.
- Family members who had sudden, unexplained and unexpected death before age 50.
- Family members who have been diagnosed with a condition that can cause sudden cardiac death, such as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) or Long QT syndrome.
- A seizure suddenly and without warning, especially during exercise or in response to loud sounds like doorbells, alarm clocks, or ringing phones.

LEARN TO RECOGNIZE SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

If you see someone collapse, assume they have experienced sudden cardiac arrest and respond quickly. This victim will be unresponsive, gasping or not breathing normally, and may have some jerking (seizure-like activity). Call for help and start CPR. You cannot hurt them.

LEARN HANDS-ON CPR

Effective CPR saves lives by circulating blood to the brain and other vital organs until rescue teams arrive. It is one of the most important life skills you can learn – and it is easier than ever.

- Call 911 (or ask bystanders to call 911 and get an AED).
- Push hard and fast in the center of the chest. Kneel at the victim’s side, place your hands on the lower half of the breastbone, one on top of the other, elbows straight and locked. Push down 2 inches, then up 2 inches, at a rate of 100 times/minute, to the beat of the song “Stayin’ Alive.”
- If an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is available, open it and follow the voice prompts. It will lead you step-by-step through the process, and will never shock a victim that does not need a shock.

By signing this Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form, we give permission to the school to transfer this Form to all sports that this child may play. We are aware of the dangers of sudden cardiac arrest and this signed Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form will represent myself and this child during the current school year _____. This form will be stored with the Athlete’s Physical Form and any other accompanying forms required by the Georgia Independent Athletic Association (GIAA).

WE HAVE READ THIS FORM AND UNDERSTAND THE FACTS REPRESENTED IN IT.

SCHOOL NAME: _____

STUDENT’S NAME: _____ STUDENT’S SIGNATURE: _____
(PRINTED)

PARENT’S NAME: _____ PARENT’S SIGNATURE: _____
(PRINTED)

DATE SIGNED: _____