



## ATHLETIC RELEASE OF LIABILITY

**Parent/Guardian Consent, Acknowledgement and Release** (to be completed and signed by parent(s)/guardian(s) at the bottom; where divorced or separated, parent/guardian with legal custody must sign.)

I hereby give consent for my student athlete to participate in the sport I am registering them for on this form.

- A. I understand that participation may necessitate an early dismissal from classes.
- B. I know of and acknowledge that my student athlete knows of the risks involved in athletic participation, understand that serious injury, and even death, is possible in such participation and choose to accept any and all responsibility for his/her safety and welfare while participating in athletics. With full understanding of the risks involved, I release and hold harmless my student athlete's/s school, the schools against which it competes, the contest officials, and the athletic director/coaches of any and all responsibility and liability for any injury or claim resulting from such athletic participation and agree to take no legal action against the BETHANY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, 1100 West Dorchester Ave. West Melbourne, FL 32904, because of any accident or mishap involving the athletic participation of my student athlete.
- C. I specifically authorize healthcare services to be provided for my student athlete by a healthcare practitioner, or someone under the direct supervision of a healthcare practitioner, should the need arise for such treatment, while my student athlete is under the supervision of the school. I further hereby authorize the use of disclosure of my student athlete's/s individually identifiable health information should treatment for illness or injury become necessary.
- D. I am aware of the potential danger of concussions and/or head and neck injuries in athletics. I also have knowledge about the risk of continuing to participate once such an injury is sustained without proper medical clearance.
- E. **READ THIS FORM COMPLETELY AND CAREFULLY. YOU ARE AGREEING TO LET YOUR MINOR STUDENT ATHLETE ENGAGE IN A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ACTIVITY. YOU ARE AGREEING THAT, EVEN IF YOUR STUDENT ATHLETE'S/S SCHOOL, THE SCHOOLS AGAINST WHICH IT COMPETES, THE CONTEST OFFICIALS, AND ATHLETIC DIRECTOR/COACHES USE REASONABLE CARE IN PROVIDING THIS ACTIVITY, THERE IS A CHANCE YOUR STUDENT ATHLETE MAY BE SERIOUSLY INJURED OR KILLED BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS ACTIVITY BECAUSE THERE ARE CERTAIN DANGERS INHERENT IN THE ACTIVITY WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED OR ELIMINATED. BY SIGNING THIS FORM, YOU ARE GIVING UP YOUR STUDENT ATHLETE'S/S RIGHT AND YOUR RIGHT TO RECOVER FROM YOUR STUDENT ATHLETE'S/S SCHOOL, THE SCHOOLS AGAINST WHICH IT COMPETES, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, THE CONTEST OFFICIALS, AND ATHLETIC DIRECTOR/COACHES IN A LAWSUIT FOR ANY PERSONAL INJURY, INCLUDING DEATH, TO YOUR STUDENT ATHLETE OR ANY PROPERTY DAMAGE THAT RESULTS FROM THE RISKS THAT ARE A NATURAL PART OF THE ACTIVITY. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO SIGN THIS FORM, AND YOUR STUDENT ATHLETE'S/S SCHOOL, THE SCHOOLS AGAINST WHICH IT**

**COMPETES, THE CONTEST OFFICIALS, AND ATHLETIC DIRECTOR/COACH HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO LET YOUR STUDENT ATHLETE PARTICIPATE IF YOU DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM.**

F. I understand that the authorizations and rights granted herein are voluntary and that I may revoke any or all of them at any time by submitting said revocation in writing to my student athlete's/s' school. By doing so, however, I understand that my student athlete will no longer be eligible for participation in athletics.

G. My student athlete is covered under our family health insurance plan.

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I HAVE READ THIS CAREFULLY AND KNOW IT CONTAINS A RELEASE (only one parent/guardian signature is required)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parent/Guardian (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian / Date

## **CONCUSSION INFORMATION**

Concussion is a brain injury. Concussions, as well as all other head injuries, are serious. They can be caused by a bump, a twist of the head, sudden deceleration or acceleration, a blow or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with force transmitted to the head. You cannot see a concussion, and more than 90% of all concussions occur without loss of consciousness.

Signs and symptoms of a concussion may show up right after the injury or can take hours or days to fully appear. All concussions are potentially serious and, if not managed properly, may result in complications including brain damage and, in rare cases, even death. Even a "ding" or a bump on the head can be serious. If your student athlete reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms or signs of concussion yourself, your student athlete should be immediately removed from play, evaluated by a medical professional, and cleared by a medical doctor.

### **Signs and Symptoms of a Concussion:**

Concussion symptoms may appear immediately after the injury or can take several days to appear. Studies have shown that it takes on average 10-14 days or longer for symptoms to resolve and, in rare cases or if the athlete has sustained multiple concussions, the symptoms can be prolonged.

Signs and symptoms of concussion can include: (not all-inclusive)

- Vacant stare or seeing stars
- Lack of awareness of surroundings
- Emotions out of proportion to circumstances (inappropriate crying or anger)
- Headache or persistent headache, nausea, vomiting
- Altered vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Delayed verbal and motor responses
- Disorientation, slurred, or incoherent speech
- Dizziness, including light-headedness, vertigo (spinning), or loss of equilibrium (being off-balance or swimming sensation)
- Decreased coordination, reaction time
- Confusion and inability to focus attention

- Memory loss
- Sudden change in academic performance or drop in grades
- Irritability, depression, anxiety, sleep disturbances, easy fidgeting
- In rare cases, loss of consciousness

**DANGERS** if your student athlete continues to play with a concussion or returns too soon: athletes with signs and symptoms of concussion should be removed from activity (play or practice) immediately.

Continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of a concussion leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to sustaining another concussion. Athletes who sustain a second concussion before the symptoms of the first concussion have resolved and the brain has had a chance to heal are at risk for prolonged concussion symptoms, permanent disability and even death (called “Second Impact Syndrome” where the brain swells uncontrollably). There is also evidence that multiple concussions can lead to long-term symptoms, including early dementia.

**Steps to take if you suspect your student athlete has suffered a concussion:** Any athlete suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the activity immediately. No athlete may return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without written medical clearance from an appropriate healthcare professional (AHCP). In Florida, an appropriate healthcare professional (AHCP) is defined as either a licensed physician (MD, as per Chapter 458, Florida Statutes) or a licensed osteopathic physician (DO, as per Chapter 459, Florida Statutes). Close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours. You should also seek medical care and inform your student athlete’s coach if you think that your student athlete may have a concussion. Remember, it’s better to miss one game than to have your life changed forever. When in doubt, sit them out.

**Return to play or practice:** Following physician evaluation, the return to activity process requires the athlete to be completely symptom free, after which time they would complete a stepwise protocol under the supervision of a licensed athletic trainer, coach, or medical professional and then, receive written medical clearance from an AHCP. For current and up-to-date information on concussions, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/concussioninyouthsports/> or <http://www.seeingstarsfoundation.org>

### **Statement of Student-Athlete Responsibility:**

Parents and student should be aware of preliminary evidence that suggests repeat concussions, and even hits that do not cause a symptomatic concussion, may lead to abnormal brain changes which can only be seen on an autopsy (known as Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE). There have been case reports suggesting the development of Parkinson’s like symptoms, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), severe traumatic brain injury, depression, and long-term memory issues that may be related to concussion history. Further research on this topic is needed before any conclusions can be drawn.

I acknowledge and accept responsibility for reporting all injuries and illnesses to my parents, doctor, athletic trainer, or coaches associated with my sport, including any signs and symptoms of concussion. I have read and understand the above information on concussion. I will inform the supervising coach, athletic trainer, or team physician immediately if I experience any of these symptoms or witness a teammate with these symptoms. Furthermore, I have been advised of the dangers or participation for myself and that of my student athlete.

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Name of Parent/Guardian (printed)

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Signature of Parent/Guardian / Date

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Name of Parent/Guardian (printed)

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Signature of Parent/Guardian / Date

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Name of Student (printed)

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Signature of Student / Date

## **SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST INFORMATION**

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a leading cause of sports-related death. Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) occurs when the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. When this happens blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. SCA is NOT a heart attack. A heart attack may cause SCA, but they are not the same. A heart attack is caused by a blockage that stops the flow of blood to the heart. SCA is a malfunction in the heart's electrical system, causing the heart to suddenly stop beating. SCA can cause death if it is not treated within minutes. How common is sudden cardiac arrest in the United States? There are about 350,000 cardiac arrests that occur outside of hospitals each year. More than 10,000 individuals under the age of 25 die of SCA each year. SCA is the number one killer of student-athletes and the leading cause of death on school campuses. Are there warning signs? Although SCA happens unexpectedly, some people may have signs or symptoms, such as but not limited to dizziness or light-headedness, fainting, shortness of breath, racing or skipped beats/palpitations, fatigue, weakness, chest pain/pressure or tightness. These symptoms may occur before, during, or after activity. These symptoms can be unclear and confusing in athletes. Some may ignore the signs or think they are normal results of physical exhaustion. If the conditions that cause SCA are diagnosed and treated before a life-threatening event, sudden cardiac death can be prevented in many young athletes.

### **What are the risks of practicing or playing after experiencing these symptoms?**

There are significant risks associated with continuing to practice or play after experiencing these symptoms. The symptoms might mean something is wrong and the athlete should be checked before returning to play. When the heart stops due to cardiac arrest, so does the blood that flows to the brain and other vital organs. Death or permanent brain damage can occur in just a few minutes. Most people who experience a SCA die from it; survival rates are below 10%. BCS Sports strongly recommends but does not require a medical evaluation with your healthcare provider for risk factors of sudden cardiac arrest, which may include an electrocardiogram. BCS works to help keep student-athletes safe while practicing or playing by providing education about SCA and by notification to parents that you can request, at your expense, an electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG) as part of the annual preparticipation physical examination to possibly uncover hidden heart issues that can lead to SCA.

### **Why do heart conditions that put youth at risk go undetected?**

- Publications report up to 90% of underlying heart issues are missed when using only the history and physical exam;
- Most heart conditions that can lead to SCA are not detectable by listening to the heart with a stethoscope during a routine physical; and
- Often, youth do not report or recognize symptoms of a potential heart condition. What is an electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG)? An ECG/EKG is a quick, painless, and noninvasive test that measures and records a moment in time of the heart's electrical activity. Small electrode patches are attached to the skin of your chest, arms, and legs by a technician. An ECG/EKG provides information about the structure, function, rate, and rhythm of the heart. Why

request an ECG/EKG as part of the annual preparticipation physical examination? Adding an ECG/EKG to the history and annual preparticipation physical exam can suggest further testing or help identify heart conditions that can lead to SCA. An ECG/ EKG can be ordered by your family healthcare provider from screening for cardiovascular disease or for a variety of symptoms such as chest pain, palpitations, dizziness, fainting, or family history of heart disease.

- ECG/EKG screenings should be considered every 1-2 years because young hearts grow and change.
- ECG/EKG screenings may increase sensitivity for detection of undiagnosed cardiac disease but may not prevent SCA.
- ECG/EKG screenings with abnormal findings should be evaluated by trained physicians.
- If the ECG/EKG screening has abnormal findings, additional testing may need to be done (with associated cost and risk) before a diagnosis can be made and may prevent the student from participating in sports for short period of time until the testing is completed, and more specific recommendations can be made.
- The ECG/EKG can have false positive findings, suggesting an abnormality that does not really exist (false positive findings occur less when ECG/EKGs are read by a medical practitioner proficient in ECG/EKG interpretation of student athlete, adolescents, and young athletes).
- ECG/EKGs result in fewer false positives than simply using the current history and physical exam. The American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association guidelines do not recommend an ECG or EKG in asymptomatic patients but do support local programs in which ECG or EKG can be applied with high-quality resources. Removal from play/return to play Any student-athlete who has signs or symptoms of SCA should be removed from play (which includes all athletic activity). The symptoms can happen before, during, or after activity. Before returning to play, the athlete shall be evaluated and cleared. Clearance to return to play must be in writing. The evaluation shall be performed by a licensed physician, certified registered nurse practitioner, or cardiologist (heart doctor). The licensed physician or certified registered nurse practitioner may consult any other licensed or certified medical professionals.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that the information on Sudden Cardiac Arrest has been read and understood. I have been advised of the dangers of participation for myself and that of my student athlete.

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Name of Parent/Guardian (printed)

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Signature of Parent/Guardian / Date

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Name of Parent/Guardian (printed)

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Signature of Parent/Guardian / Date

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Name of Student (printed)

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Signature of Student / Date

## HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS INFORMATION

Heat-related illness is a cause for concern for student-athletes who participate in high school sports in Florida. Especially vulnerable are those students who participate in conditioning and practices in the summer months and other times of extreme heat. Student-athletes suffer heat-related illnesses when their bodies cannot properly cool themselves by sweating. Sweating is the body's natural air conditioning, but when a person's body temperature rises rapidly, sweating just is not enough. Heat-related illnesses can be serious and life-threatening. Very high body temperatures may damage the brain or other vital organs and can cause disability and even death. Heat-related illnesses and deaths are preventable.

### What are some common heat-related injuries in sports?

**Exertional Heat Stroke (EHS):** EHS is the most serious heat-related illness. EHS is a medical emergency. It happens when the body's temperature rises quickly, and the body cannot cool down. Student-athletes can die or become permanently disabled from EHS if not properly recognized and managed. EHS is one of the leading causes of death in young athletes, especially in Florida. The two main criteria for diagnosing EHS are rectal temperature >105F (40.5C) immediately post collapse and central nervous system (CNS) dysfunction. There are many signs and symptoms associated with EHS. Parents and student-athletes should familiarize themselves with these by viewing the free video resources provided by the National Federation of High School Sports (NFHS) or the FHSAA.

- EHS is preventable by taking the proper precautions and understanding the symptoms of someone who has become ill due to heat.
- EHS is survivable when quick action is taken by staff members that includes early recognition of symptoms and aggressive cold-water immersion.

**Heat Exhaustion (EHI):** Heat exhaustion is the most common heat-related condition observed in active populations including student-athletes. EHI is a type of heat-related illness. EHI is defined as the inability to continue exercise in the heat because the heart has difficulty providing enough oxygenated blood to all the working organs and muscles. It usually develops after several days practicing or conditioning in high temperature weather and not drinking enough fluids.

**Heat Cramps:** Heat cramps are painful, involuntary cramping often in the legs, arms, or abdomen with muscle contraction. Cramping usually occurs in the preseason conditioning phase when the body is not properly conditioned and more subject to fatigue. Heat cramps can easily be treated with rest, stretching of the muscle, and replacement of fluid and electrolytes. The exact mechanism of muscle cramps in warm environmental conditions is unknown but can be caused acutely by extensive dehydration and sodium losses or chronically via inadequate electrolytes in the athlete's diet. Although heat cramps are not a cause of sudden death, it can be confused with the more serious condition, exertional sickling.

**Is my student at risk?** Yes, all student-athletes are vulnerable to exertional heat stroke and other heat-related injuries. While every student-athlete can succumb to EHS, newer data is reporting a high incidence of exertional heat stroke cases in football players, especially those who play the lineman position and in very lean distance runners.

### Ways to avoid Heat Related Illnesses:

- Discuss nutrition, proper hydration, body weight, and the importance of sleep and rest with your family healthcare provider at the time of the sports physical
- Talk to your school and coach about safeguards they have in place to keep kids safe in the heat and what they will do for someone who becomes ill or injured
- Monitor fluid intake of your student while at home and routinely check in with your student-athlete to inquire about how they feel
- Report any concerns with your school's athletic trainer, physician, coach, or your family healthcare provider

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that the information on Heat-Related Illness has been read and understood. I have been advised of the dangers of participation for myself and that of my student athlete.

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Name of Parent/Guardian (printed)

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Signature of Parent/Guardian / Date

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Name of Parent/Guardian (printed)

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Signature of Parent/Guardian / Date

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Name of Student (printed)

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Signature of Student / Date