

Part 4: What should occur when a person experiences Sudden Cardiac Arrest? When a person experiences SCA, three actions should be taken immediately:

1st: Get Help! Call out for assistance and call 911.

2nd: Start CPR! Begin hands-only CPR.

3rd: Attach and activate an Automated External Defibrillator (AED)! An AED should be attached, activated and the user should follow the prompts. The AED will be able to determine if a shock should be given to the heart or if CPR should be continued without a shock. If the AED determines that a shock should be given, it will give instructions on how to proceed.

Only CPR and AED use have been proven to help a person get out of a cardiac arrest. For every minute a person does not receive a shock, the chances of survival goes down by 10% per minute. Keep in mind that the average response time for emergency medical services (EMS) is approximately 5-8 minutes. The AED will not allow the user to deliver an electric shock if it is not clinically applicable. The person using the AED can attach the device to the person suffering the SCA, turn it on and push the shock button, but the AED will not allow a shock to be delivered if it is unwarranted. No harm can be done by applying an AED to an individual.

Return to Play

Before returning to play, the athlete must be evaluated by a licensed medical provider. Following the evaluation, written clearance, signed by the licensed medical provider, must be given prior to the student-athlete engaging in any athletic activity.

Part 5: Local Board of Education Policy regarding Sudden Cardiac Arrest --(see school web page for policy)

Summary

- SCA is, by definition, sudden and unexpected.
- SCA can happen in individuals who appear healthy and have no known heart disease.
- Most people who have SCA die from it, usually within minutes.
- Rapid treatment of SCA with CPR and an AED can be lifesaving.
- Training in recognition of signs of SCA, and the availability of AEDs and personnel who possess the skills to use one, may save the life of someone experiencing SCA.

National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute: <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/health-topics/topics/scda>

I have read and understand the Parent and Legal Guardian Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Informed Consent Form and understand the severities associated with Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) and the need for immediate treatment of any suspected condition.

I authorize _____ to participate in _____ for school year _____
(Student Name) (Sport/Activity)

Parent/Guardian name: _____ Date: _____ Signature: _____
(Print Name)

Sources/Resources:

Simons Fund - <http://www.simonsfund.org/>

Pennsylvania Department of Health - <http://www.simonsfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Parent-HandoutSCA.pdf>

Mayo Clinic - <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/sudden-cardiac-arrest/basics/definition/con20042982>

National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) - <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/health-topics/topics/scda>

American Heart Association (AHA) - <http://www.heart.org>