

# Parent/Guardian and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Warning Signs and Symptoms Information and Acknowledgment Form

## What Is SCA?

SCA occurs suddenly and often without warning. It is triggered by an electrical malfunction in the heart that causes an irregular heartbeat. With the heart's pumping action disrupted, the heart cannot pump blood to the brain, lungs, and other organs. Seconds later, a person loses consciousness and has no pulse. Death occurs within minutes if the victim does not receive treatment.

## Who Is at Risk for SCA?

Thousands of sudden cardiac arrests occur among youth each year, as it contributes to the #2 medical cause of death of youth under the age of 25 and is the #1 cause of death of student athletes during exercise. While a heart condition may have no warning signs, studies show that many young people do have warning signs or symptoms but neglect to tell an adult. This may be because they are embarrassed, they do not want to jeopardize their playing time, they mistakenly think that they are out of shape and need to train harder, or they simply ignore the symptoms, hoping the signs will go away.

## Possible Warning Signs and Risk Factors

- Fainting or seizure, especially during or right after exercise
- Fainting repeatedly or with excitement or startle
- Excessive shortness of breath during exercise
- Racing or fluttering heart palpitations or irregular heartbeat
- Repeated dizziness or lightheadedness
- Chest pain or discomfort with exercise
- Excessive, unexpected fatigue during or after exercise
- Family history of sudden death or heart disease under age 50
- Use of high-caffeine supplements, energy drinks, diet pills, and drugs

## Removal from Activity

An athlete who faints during or following participation in an athletic activity must be removed from play and may not return to play until they are evaluated and cleared by a physician and surgeon, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant. I have reviewed and understand the symptoms, warning signs, and risk factors associated with SCA.

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Print Athletes Name

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Print Parent/Guardian Name

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Signature Parent/Guardian

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Date

The CDE used information from the following sources: American Heart Association, Parent Heart Watch (<https://parentheartwatch.org/>), Eric Paredes Save a Life Foundation: Keep Their Heart in the Game (<https://epsavealife.org/>), and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation (<http://www.sca-aware.org/>).