



Sudden Cardiac Arrest – FAQ Document

(May 2021)

1. Where can I find a copy of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) Law?

The law is titled “Student Athletes: Sudden Cardiac Arrest”. The original law is listed under Indiana Code IC 20-34-8. HEA 1040, passed during the 2021 legislative session, added additional requirements to the law which can be found [here](#).

2. Are there new requirements mandated in HEA 1040?

Yes, the following new requirements are mandated in HEA 1040:

- Expands the definition of students to include those participating in marching band.
- Defines the symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest as fainting, difficulty breathing, chest pains, dizziness, and abnormal racing heart.
- Adds the requirement to include electrocardiogram information into the fact sheets.
- Provides a list of people that can remove a student from an activity.
- Includes a requirement that coaches and marching band leaders must complete a sudden cardiac arrest training course.
- Adds liability protection for adults providing coaching or leadership services to applicable students.

3. Does this law apply to all schools?

This law applies to public school corporations, charter schools, and accredited non-public schools.

4. Does this law apply to all students?

This law applies to all students, under the age of 18, who participate in an athletic contest or competition conducted between or among schools, including competitive and noncompetitive cheerleading sponsored by or associated with a school, and marching band.

5. Does this law apply to students participating in intramural sports?

No, the original Sudden Cardiac Arrest Law was amended in 2016 to remove the requirement that applied to an intramural athletic contest or competition.



6. What type of documents are required in this law?

Schools are required to share information sheets with both parents and students. Before beginning practice for an athletic activity, cheerleading, or marching band, students and parents must be given information sheets which describe specific symptoms of SCA, as well as information regarding electrocardiogram testing. Additionally, parents and students must sign and return a form acknowledging the receipt and review of the information to the student's coach or marching band leader.

7. Are there sample forms that schools could use regarding the implementation of this law?

Yes, sample forms have been developed by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and can be found on the [IDOE Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Webpage](#). Schools are not required to use these sample forms, but they are provided for schools to use if they wish. Schools are welcome to develop and use their own forms as long as these forms meet the requirements of the law.

8. Who can remove a student who is experiencing symptoms from practice?

A game official, coach from the student's athletic or cheerleading activity, licensed athletic trainer, physical assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, licensed physician, or marching band leader may remove a student from practice who is experiencing symptoms of SCA.

If during the initial assessment, the student athlete does not exhibit any of the emergency signs associated with sudden cardiac arrest, but does exhibit any (even one) of the signs or symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest, sudden cardiac arrest should be suspected. At that time, the student athlete should be removed from play, the student's parents should be notified, and the athlete should not return to play until a parent's verbal permission has been obtained. The student may not return to practice or play until the parents' verbal permission has been obtained, even if the student has been assessed by a health care professional.

9. Does a student have to be evaluated by a licensed health care provider before being allowed to return to participation?

No, the law requires that the parent must be notified, the information sheet must be provided, and the student may return to participation only if verbal permission has been given by the parent. Verbal permission must be replaced with written permission within 24 hours. Sample forms to document verbal permission and the parents' written permission can be found on the [IDOE Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Webpage](#).



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

10. What should be done if the parent does not send written permission to the coach or band leader?

The student should not be allowed to participate, practice, or compete in an activity until the parent has provided the school written permission for the student to return to the activity.

11. What should be done if the student continues to exhibit signs or symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest after they have been returned to play upon written release by the parent?

The student should be removed from play each time he/she exhibits symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest and should not be returned to play without a verbal and then a written follow-up release to play from the parents. Schools are encouraged to develop a school policy that addresses these procedures and describes what the school policy will be for students that exhibit these symptoms more than once. (For example, a school policy could state that a school will only accept one written return to play release note from a parent and if the student continues to exhibit signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest, the parents' written release would need to be replaced by a health care provider's written release.)

12. What are the requirements for the new education course?

The law states that no individual may coach or lead an athletic, cheerleading or marching band activity until the individual completes a sudden cardiac arrest training course approved by IDOE. The course must provide a certificate of completion to each individual who completes the course.

13. Is there an approved course that individuals can take that meets the requirement of this law?

Yes, the following course has been approved by IDOE as meeting the requirements of HEA 1040: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/sudden-cardiac-arrest>.

14. Is there any liability protection for individuals included in this law?

Yes, any individual who complies with the requirements of the law and provides coaching or leadership services in good faith is not personally liable for damages in a civil action except for an act or omission that constitutes gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.