Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association

P. O. BOX 319 · 3333 LEBANON ROAD · HERMITAGE, TENNESSEE 37076
615/889-6740 • Fax 615/889-0544 • www.tssaa.org

Date: December 15, 2015
To: Principals, Athletic Directors
From: Bernard Childress
Subject: Sudden Cardiac Arrest Legislation

TSSAA would like to take this opportunity to remind our member schools of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest legislation which takes effect January 1, 2016.

The link to the new law in its entirety is below:
http://www.tn.gov/sos/acts/109/pub/pc0325.pdf

New Requirements from this legislation:

1. **Coaches, Parent/Athlete Forms** - The new requirements of this law include forms for coaches, parents, and students athletes to sign acknowledging that they are aware of the signs and symptoms of Sudden Cardiac Arrest. We would encourage each school to include these forms along with the similar forms from the Concussion Legislation in your Pre-Participation Physical Examination/Parental Consent paperwork. Links to the Coaches Forms, the Parent/Student Athlete Forms, as well as an approved return to play form as described in #2 below can be found on the TSSAA website in the Forms/Physical Forms Section at the following link:

   http://tssaa.org/schools/forms/

   In an effort to simplify the administration of the required paperwork for an athlete to participate, a number of our member schools have chosen to use Privit Profile for their Pre-participation physical information. Privit Profile's health management platform enables schools to securely collect and manage access to health information and forms for their student athlete population. With the recent addition of the Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Legislation, the current paper-based process is becoming much more cumbersome to manage for our member schools. It is a significant time commitment for an administrator or coach to verify that the required paperwork is properly completed and returned prior to each student athlete's participation. It is also an ongoing challenge to have permission to treat forms readily available at all practices and games. Privit Profile provides a solution for Athletic Directors and coaches for all of these issues at no cost to the member school.

2. **Return to Play Policy** - A youth athlete who has been removed from play shall not return to the practice or competition during which the youth athlete experienced symptoms consistent with sudden cardiac arrest. Those symptoms are as follows:
   (i) Unexplained shortness of breath;
   (ii) Chest pains;
   (iii) Dizziness;
   (iv) Racing heart rate; or
   (v) Extreme fatigue

- Before returning to practice or play in an athletic activity, the athlete must be evaluated by a Tennessee licensed medical doctor or an osteopathic physician. Clearance to full or graduated return to practice or play must be in writing.

3. Annual Online Education for Coaches – Coaches must complete an approved course for Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training. The NFHS course entitled "Sudden Cardiac Arrest" is an approved course and can be accessed for free. The course takes approximately 15 minutes to complete.

Persons wishing to complete the NFHS course will have to register at the following link: https://www.nfhslearn.com/Registration.aspx.

For more information on how to get started in utilizing the Privit Profile health management platform, please contact Phil Hein at 614.767.5998 or phein@privit.com

For more information on the specifics of the new Sudden Cardiac Arrest Legislation, please contact Mark Reeves at 615-889-6740 or mreeves@tssaa.org.