

AB 1639: SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION ACT CALIFORNIA SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017

On September 29, 2016, Governor Brown signed into law AB 1639, known as the Eric Paredes Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act, which added Sections 33479-33479.9 to the Education Code relating to pupil safety. The new law will go into effect on July 1, 2017, and will affect public schools, charter schools and private schools that offer athletics programs.

REQUIREMENTS

AB 1639 requires the State Department of Education (CDE) to post materials related to Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) to the Department's internet website. These materials include, but are not limited to videos, an information sheet on symptoms and warning signs of SCA and other relevant materials. The purpose of these materials is to educate students and parents and to train coaches on SCA. These materials can be posted to district websites for easy access.

The law requires school districts to collect and retain a copy of the SCA information sheet required by the California Interscholastic Foundation (CIF) for each pupil participating in an athletic activity governed by CIF, each school year.

For athletic activities not governed by CIF, the pupil and pupil's parents or guardians must sign and return an acknowledgment of receipt and review of an information sheet on SCA symptoms and warning signs. This information sheet will be developed by the CDE and posted to its website as part of its duties under the new law. This has to be done each school year before the student begins to participate in the athletic activity.

AB 1639 also allows, but does not require, a school to hold an information meeting before the start of each athletic season for all ages of competitors regarding the symptoms and warning signs of SCA.

The law requires that a pupil who passes out or faints while participating in or immediately following an athletic activity, or who is known to have passed out or fainted while participating in or immediately following an athletic activity, be removed from participation at that time by the athletic director, coach, athletic trainer or authorized person (an employee, volunteer, or contractor authorized to provide health or medical services to pupil athletes).

It further requires that a pupil who exhibits any of the other symptoms of SCA (seizures, unexplained shortness of breath, chest pains, dizziness, racing heart rate or extreme fatigue) during an athletic activity may be removed from participation by an athletic trainer or authorized person if they reasonably believe the symptoms are cardiac related. In the absence of an athletic trainer or authorized person, any coach who observes any of the symptoms of SCA must notify the pupil's parent or guardian.

A pupil removed for fainting or exhibiting any of the other symptoms of SCA cannot return to play in an athletic activity until he or she is evaluated and cleared in writing by a physician, surgeon or nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

The law requires athletic coaches complete the SCA training course posted to the CDE website. Coaches must retake the training course every two years. A coach of an athletic activity will not be eligible to coach an athletic activity until the coach completes the training course. The statute specifies that coaches must take the training course posted by the CDE on its website pursuant to 33479.2.

Beginning July 2, 2019, a coach who does not take the SCA training course can be suspended from coaching any athletic activity until completion of the required training. A link to the SCA training course has been added to Keenan SafeSchools.

Should you have any questions regarding this *Briefing*, please contact your Keenan Loss Control consultant.

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