

## CHAPTER 209

**AN ACT** concerning the health of student-athletes, amending P.L.2007, c.125, and supplementing chapter 3A of Title 15A and chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

C.18A:40-41e Short title.

1. Sections 2 through 5 of P.L.2013, c.209 (C.18A:40-41f through C.18A:40-41i) and P.L.2007, c.125 (C.18A:40-41) shall be known and may be cited as the “Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act.”

C.18A:40-41f Definitions.

2. As used in sections 3 through 5 of P.L.2013, c.209 (C.18A:40-41g through C.18A:40-41i), “athletic activity” means: interscholastic athletics; an athletic contest or competition, other than interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated with a school district or nonpublic school, including cheerleading and club-sponsored sports activities; and any practice or interschool practice or scrimmage for those activities.

C.18A:40-41g Informational meeting.

3. A school district or nonpublic school may hold an informational meeting prior to the start of each athletic season for students-athletes, their parents or guardians, coaches, athletic trainers, the school physician, school nurses, and other school officials on the nature, risk, symptoms and early warning signs, prevention, and treatment of sudden cardiac arrest.

C.18A:40-41h Removal of athlete showing warning signs from activity; violations, penalties.

4. a. A student who exhibits symptoms or early warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest, as determined by an athletic trainer if one is on site, or if an athletic trainer is not on site, then a game official, team coach, licensed physician, or other official designated by the student’s school, while participating in an athletic activity, shall be immediately removed from the athletic activity by the coach. The student shall not be eligible to return to athletic activity until he is evaluated and receives written clearance from a licensed physician.

b. A student who exhibits symptoms or early warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest at any time prior to or following an athletic activity shall be prohibited from participating in an athletic activity. The student shall not be eligible to return to athletic activity until he is evaluated and receives written clearance from a licensed physician.

c. The board of education of a school district or the governing body or chief school administrator of a nonpublic school, as appropriate, shall ensure that a person who coaches a school district or nonpublic school athletic activity who knowingly violates the provisions of subsection a. or b. of this section shall be:

(1) suspended from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season for a first violation;

(2) suspended from coaching any athletic activity for the remainder of the season and the entire next season for a second violation; and

(3) permanently suspended from coaching any athletic activity for a third violation.

C.18A:40-41i Certification required for coaches.

5. A person who coaches a school district or nonpublic school athletic activity shall hold a current certification in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation from the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, or other training program recognized by the Department of Health.

C.18A:40-41j Nonprofit youth-serving organizations encouraged to promulgate information protocol.

6. All nonprofit youth-serving organizations as defined in section 1 of P.L.1999, c.432 (C.15A:3A-1) including, but not limited to, Little Leagues, Babe Ruth Leagues, Pop Warner Leagues, Police Athletic Leagues, and youth soccer leagues, which organize, sponsor, or are otherwise affiliated with youth athletic events, are encouraged to:

a. direct the parent or guardian of each child participating in a youth athletic event to the sudden cardiac arrest information posted on the Department of Education's website pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2007, c.125 (C.18A:40-41); and

b. follow the protocol concerning removal-from-play established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2013, c.209 (C.18A:40-41h) of a child who exhibits symptoms or early warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest during a youth athletic event, or who exhibits symptoms or early warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest at any time prior to or following a youth athletic event.

7. Section 1 of P.L.2007, c.125 (C.18A:40-41) is amended to read as follows:

C.18A:40-41 Sudden cardiac arrest pamphlet; development, distribution.

1. a. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Health, the American Heart Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, shall develop a pamphlet that provides information about sudden cardiac arrest to student-athletes and the parents or guardians of student athletes and shall post the information on the Department of Education's website. The pamphlet shall include: an explanation of sudden cardiac arrest; its incidence among student athletes; a description of early warning signs, including fainting, labored breathing, chest pains, dizziness and abnormal heart rate, and the risks associated with continuing to play or practice after experiencing one or more of the symptoms; an overview of the options that are privately available to screen for cardiac conditions that may lead to sudden cardiac arrest, including a statement about the limitations of these options; and a form to be signed by the student athlete and his parent or guardian acknowledging receipt and review of the pamphlet.

b. The commissioner shall distribute the pamphlet, at no charge, to all school districts and nonpublic schools in the State and shall update the pamphlet as necessary.

c. Each school district and nonpublic school shall distribute the pamphlet to the parents or guardians of students participating in athletic activities.

d. A student participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity and the student's parent or guardian shall, each year and prior to participation by the student in an athletic activity, sign and return to the student's school the form developed by the commissioner pursuant to subsection a. of this section acknowledging the receipt and review of the informational pamphlet.

e. As used in this section, "athletic activity" means: interscholastic athletics; an athletic contest or competition, other than interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated with a school district or nonpublic school, including cheerleading and club-sponsored sports activities; and any practice or interschool practice or scrimmage for those activities.

8. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 17, 2014.