

## 2024 PROPOSED POLICY CHANGES - Operations

1 POLICY 43

2 **EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS, HEALTHCARE SERVICES, AND STUDENT-ATHLETE SPORTS**  
3 **SAFETY FOR SCHOOLS AND PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S)**

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5 The development and implementation of an Emergency Action Plan helps ensure the best care is provided in the event of an  
6 emergency. In the event of an emergency, the 911 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system should be activated as quickly  
7 as possible and provided with accurate information to ensure appropriate medical personnel are dispatched.

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9 **43.1** All member schools ~~are to~~ shall develop a site-specific Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for managing serious and/or  
10 potentially life-threatening injuries for ~~all home contest venues each practice and event location used by member school~~  
11 student-athletes.

12 **43.1.1** Member schools that utilize home contest and/or practice venues offsite, within public or private facilities, separate  
13 from the member school location, shall be required to work collaboratively with venue management to ensure policy  
14 compliance.

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16 **43.2** The EAPs ~~should~~ shall be developed, coordinated, reviewed, and rehearsed at least once annually with local Emergency  
17 Medical Services (EMS), school public safety officials, on-site medical personnel, or school medical staff (team physicians  
18 and/or athletic trainers) and school administrators.

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20 **43.3** A written copy of ~~the each~~ EAP ~~should~~ shall be on file with the Principal and/or Athletic Director, shared with all  
21 athletic staff and key steps of the EAP ~~should~~ shall be posted at each athletic venue. Each EAP shall be specific to the venue.

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23 **43.4** All emergency equipment, including the location of Auto External Defibrillators (AED), ~~which is that are~~ available  
24 onsite ~~should~~ shall be listed on the EAP. Any employee or volunteer who is reasonably expected to respond to an injury or  
25 emergency shall have access to the AED.

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27 **43.5** The EAP ~~should~~ shall identify key personnel and their responsibilities to carry out the plan of action with a designated  
28 chain of command.

29 **43.5.1 Healthcare Personnel.** Healthcare personnel is defined as qualified healthcare practitioners listed under  
30 §456.001, F.S., including those licensed under chapter 458 (MD), chapter 459 (DO), chapter 460 (DC), or §464.012, F.S.  
31 (ARPN) and chapter 468 (AT), who are in good standing with their regulatory board. Other adjunctive healthcare personnel  
32 may include emergency services personnel (EMS) regulated under §401.23, F.S. and lifeguards regulated under §514.071,  
33 F.S. Ideally, healthcare personnel that provide healthcare services to student-athletes, defined below, during athletic activities  
34 shall be trained and familiar with best practices for the prevention, care, and management of common sports-related injuries,  
35 illness, conditions, and emergency situations.

36 **43.5.2 Non-Healthcare Personnel.** Non-healthcare personnel (defined as any coach, staff member, or volunteer  
37 not licensed as a healthcare provider as defined in 43.5.1 above) shall be familiar with emergency action plans published by  
38 the school and work together with healthcare personnel and school administration to promote a safe athletic experience.

39 **43.5.3 Healthcare Services.** Healthcare services include proactive prevention, recognition, management,  
40 rehabilitation, emergency care, and emergency transport for injury, illness, or conditions. Healthcare services can also include  
41 sports safety education for parents, student-athletes, coaches, and other stakeholders.

42 **43.5.4 Requirements for Healthcare Services.** A member school is required to provide healthcare services for  
43 the safety of all students participating in athletic activities. For the purposes of providing healthcare services, sports will be  
44 categorized as follows:

45 **43.5.4.1 Collision Sports.** At a minimum, a healthcare provider, as defined above, shall be on-site for any  
46 contest. Ideally, personnel at contests should include an athletic trainer, volunteer physician, and paramedic or emergency  
47 medical technician. It is strongly recommended that a healthcare provider is on-site for all official practices that include a  
48 collision sport. §1006.165, F.S., requires a school employee or volunteer with current training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation  
49 and use of an AED must be present at each athletic event during and outside of the school year, including athletic contests,  
50 practices, workouts, and conditioning sessions.

51 **43.5.4.1.1** Collision sports include football, wrestling, and boys lacrosse.

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1 **43.5.4.2 Contact Sports.** It is strongly recommended that a healthcare provider is on-site for all scheduled  
2 contests, or practices that involve contact activities. Ideally, an athletic trainer licensed under §468, F.S. is on-site for all  
3 scheduled contests and official practices. §1006.165, F.S. requires a school employee or volunteer with current training in  
4 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and use of an AED must be present at each athletic event during and outside of the school year,  
5 including athletic contests, practices, workouts, and conditioning sessions.

6 **43.5.4.2.1** Contact sports include soccer, volleyball, beach volleyball, basketball, competitive cheer, baseball,  
7 softball, tennis, girls lacrosse, water polo, diving, weightlifting, and flag football.

8 **43.5.4.3 Non-Contact Sports.** It is recommended that a healthcare provider is on-site for all contests, official  
9 practices or scrimmages that involve a non-contact sport. §1006.165, F.S. requires a school employee or volunteer with current  
10 training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and use of an AED must be present at each athletic event during and outside of the  
11 school year, including athletic contests, practices, workouts, and conditioning sessions.

12 **43.5.4.3.1** Non-contact sports include cross country, bowling, golf, swimming, and track & field.

13 **43.5.4.4 Water Sports.** It is strongly recommended a lifeguard is present for all sanctioned contests or official  
14 practices. This policy does not supersede any more restrictive policy set forth by any state, county, city, local or venue specific  
15 requirement for safety or healthcare personnel.  
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17 **43.6** The EAP ~~should~~ shall contain appropriate contact information for the local and/or responding EMS personnel.

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19 **43.7** The EAP shall contain the athletic facility address, location, and contact information.  
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21 **43.8** The EAP shall include documentation actions that need to be taken post emergency.  
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23 **43.9** Each member school is required to make student-athlete safety education available to parent(s)/guardian(s). ~~The SMAC~~  
24 ~~will provide each member school with student-athlete safety course and curriculum~~ The FHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory  
25 Committee (SMAC) will make available student-athlete safety reference materials.