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SPECIAL REPORT

CONCUSSION AND SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PROTOCOLS FOR COACHES

We are living in an era in which modern medicine provides information to interested parties that was not available a few years ago. Coaches in athletics are now expected to be more aware of health risks. This includes concussion protocols and awareness of sudden cardiac arrest and similar. This expectation comes from:

1. **Many parents.** Legal actions are increasingly likely if the coach appears to be negligent.
2. **Many schools.** Leaders of schools are increasingly aware of the need for basic public relations in such matters.
3. **The PA legislature.** In 2011-12, lawmakers mandated that all coaches receive an annual refresher training covering these two specific areas of health risks for participants in athletics. That mandate continues, even if the state does not send you reminders.

KCEA has offered seminars and distributed information on these issues. If anything, public and parental awareness of the need for training is increasing, not decreasing.

Four important points:

1. Legal liability is squarely on the coach and the school leadership.
2. The effort required to meet the basic training expectation is quite small, but important.
3. Schools are advantaged to place this issue in their administrative policy book and “tickler file” for annual enforcement.
4. Schools are further advantaged by openly advertising to parents and their public that their coaches have this required annual training (and the general staff also has emergency training such as basic and/or pediatric first aid and CPR).

The actual statutes that were passed and enacted cover less than five pages. However, questions may abound. View the [official Department Q & A](#) to address any questions you may have.

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