
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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April 7, 2022

2021 Wisconsin Act 210
[2021 Assembly Bill 82]

Information Sheet for Youth Athletes Regarding Sudden Cardiac Arrest

BACKGROUND

State law requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), in consultation with the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), to develop guidelines and compile information about the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries in youth athletic activities. This information must be distributed to each participating youth athlete and coach at the beginning of a season. No athlete may participate in the youth athletic activity unless he or she returns the information sheet signed by his or her parent or guardian, if the athlete is under the age of 19, or signed by the athlete himself or herself, if the athlete is 19 or older.

2021 WISCONSIN ACT 210

2021 Wisconsin Act 210 requires DPI to develop an information sheet that can be used to educate coaches, athletes, and parents about the nature and risk of sudden cardiac arrest during youth athletic activities. This information must be developed in consultation with the WIAA and at least two pediatric cardiologists, one of whom is employed by the Medical College of Wisconsin and one of whom is employed by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Medical School. The information sheet must specifically include information about electrocardiogram testing and the risks of continuing to participate in a youth athletic activity after experiencing symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest.

For all youth athletic activities offered to persons who are 12 years of age or older, information about sudden cardiac arrest must be included in the information sheet detailing the risks of concussions and head injuries. Consistent with current law, this information sheet must be signed and returned before an athlete can participate in the athletic season. The updated information sheet containing information about sudden cardiac arrest must be distributed to athletes and coaches starting with any youth athletic activity season beginning on or after July 1, 2022.

This act sunsets the requirement for distributing information about sudden cardiac arrest to youth athletes so it does not apply after June 30, 2032.

Effective date: March 31, 2022

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