

- (d) All broadcast or telecast fees are payable to the host institution or, at the state championships, to the NCHSAA prior to the beginning of the contest.
 - (e) The delayed telecast may not begin any earlier than completion of the contest.
 - (1) With written application to the Association, a non-commercial telecast may have the rights fees waived under certain conditions.
 - (f) NCHSAA Game of the Week: The NCHSAA Game of the Week will be conducted during the Fall and Winter sports seasons for the sports of football and basketball in conjunction with the Official Television Partner of the NCHSAA. During the Fall Sports Season the NCHSAA Game of the Week will be held on Thursday, and on Monday or Thursday during the Winter sports season.
 - (1) If forces beyond the NCHSAA's and Member Schools' control make broadcast of the NCHSAA Game of the Week impracticable, the NCHSAA and its Official Television Partner may select alternate sports to be broadcast during the aforementioned time slots, or an alternate date to broadcast the NCHSAA Game of the Week.
 - (2) Live internet video streaming of the NCHSAA Game of the Week is expressly prohibited absent prior written approval by the NCHSAA.
 - (g) Live regular season telecasts of football and basketball games by NCHSAA member schools are prohibited. However, member-schools outside of the Official Television Partner's system footprint, may upon prior written approval from the NCHSAA and its Official Television Partner, make their own arrangements with media outlets for live telecasts during the aforementioned time slots.
 - (h) Live internet video streaming of regular season contests is permitted, with the exception of the NCHSAA Game of the Week, which requires prior written NCHSAA approval.
 - (i) A live telecast of a playoff game must be approved by the NCHSAA and the holder of television rights, if any, which the Association has granted.
 - (1) The minimum fee is \$1000 for a single station and \$2000 when the signal is fed to multiple stations or cable systems.
 - (j) All telecasts, live or delayed, of any state championship game must be approved by the NCHSAA.
- 2.2.19 **Travel Checks:** Travel checks will be issued to participating schools in all sports with the exception of volleyball, football, soccer, basketball, baseball and softball. These checks are to be issued at the conclusion of the spring sports season, by July 31.

2.3 HEALTH AND SAFETY

2.3.1 Fundamentals of Heat Illness Prevention and Management:

- (a) A Certified Athletic Trainer or First Responder **MUST** be in attendance at all football practices and games.
- (b) The vast majority of serious heat illness occurs during the first week of practice/training. The key to appropriate acclimatization should consist of gradually increasing the amount of time of environmental exposure (heat and humidity) while progressively increasing physical exertion and training activities is the key to appropriate acclimatization.
 - (1) Begin with shorter, less intense practices and training activities, with longer recovery intervals between bouts of activity.
 - (2) Minimize protective gear during first several practices, and introduce additional uniform and protective gear progressively over successive days. (e.g. in football, helmets only, no shoulder pads).
 - (3) Emphasize instruction over conditioning during the first several practices.
- (c) Keep each athlete's individual level of conditioning and medical status in mind and adjust activity accordingly. These factors directly affect exertional heat illness risk. For example, there is an increased risk of heat injury if the athlete is obese, unfit, has been recently ill (particularly gastrointestinal illness), has a previous history of exertional heat illness, has Sickle Cell Trait, or is using certain medications. Players at risk should be identified from their pre-participation examination.
- (d) High temperatures and high humidity are potentially dangerous for athletes. In these conditions, lower the intensity of practices and increase the frequency and duration of rest breaks, and consider reducing uniform and protective equipment. Also, be sure to monitor all players more closely as conditions are increasingly warm/humid, especially if there is a change in weather from the previous few days.
- (e) Athletes should begin practices and training activities adequately hydrated.
- (f) Recognize early signs of distress and developing exertional heat illness (weakness, nausea/vomiting, paleness, headache, lightheadedness). Promptly remove from activity, and treat appropriately. First aid should not be delayed.

- (g) Recognize more serious signs of exertional heat illness (clumsiness, confusion, stumbling, collapse, obvious behavioral changes and/or other central nervous system problems), immediately stop activity, begin rapid cooling, and activate the Emergency Medical System.
- (h) All schools should have a heat illness prevention and management policy for all sanctioned activities and this policy must be followed.
- (i) A venue-specific Emergency Action Plan (EAP) with clearly defined written and practiced procedures should be developed and in place ahead of time.
- (j) Prior to the season all coaches, athletic training personnel and first responders working with the team should review the signs and symptoms of heat illness and the emergency action plan for their school.
- (k) A Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) chart should be available at practices and contests. If an instrument to assess WBGT is unavailable, the heat and humidity guidelines chart should be used.
- (l) Supplies to assess WBGT (or alternatively, heat and humidity on site), to assess core temperature, and to provide for rapid cooling should be on-site for all practices and games as environmental conditions require.

2.3.2 **Acclimatization:**

- (a) Days 1–5 are the first formal practices. No more than 1 practice occurs per day.
- (b) Total practice time should not exceed 3 hours in any 1 day.
- (c) 1-hour maximum walk-through is permitted on days 1–5, however there must be a minimum 3 hour break in a cool environment between practice and walk-through (or vice versa).
- (d) During days 1–2 of first formal practices, a helmet should be the only protective equipment permitted (if applicable). During days 3–5, only helmets and shoulder pads should be worn (if applicable). Beginning on day 6, all protective equipment may be worn and full contact may begin.
 - (1) Football only: on days 3–5, contact with blocking sleds and tackling dummies may be initiated.
 - (2) Full-contact sports: 100% live action drills should begin no earlier than day 6.
- (e) Day 6–14, double-practice days must be followed by a single-practice day. On single-practice days, 1 walk-through is permitted, separated from the practice by at least 3 hours of continuous rest. When a double-practice day is followed by a rest day, another double practice day is permitted after the rest day.
- (f) On a double-practice day, neither practice day should exceed 3 hours in duration, and no more than 5 total hours of practice in the day. During the 2 hour practice, there can be NO live action. Warm-up, stretching, cool-down, walk-through, conditioning and weight-room activities are included as part of the practice time. The 2 practices should be separated by at least 3 continuous hours in a cool environment.
- (g) Because the risk of exertional heat illnesses during the preseason heat-acclimatization period is high, we strongly recommend that an athletic trainer be on site before, during and after all practices.
(Adapted from Korey Stringer Institute, 2015)

2.3.3 **Prevention of Heat Illness:**

- (a) The wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT) reading using a scientifically approved device for measuring WBGT should be used in all instances regarding heat and humidity issues and illnesses. Use of the WBGT reading is recommended for the 2016-17 academic year. **WBGT readings will be mandatory for the 2017-2018 academic year.** Readings should be taken every hour beginning 30 minutes before the beginning of practice. Refer to the WBGT chart. If unable to obtain WBGT reading, obtain onsite heat and humidity levels and refer to the heat index chart. Reliable heat and humidity levels should be taken on site. Avoid using readings from locations more than 5 miles away.
- (b) As WBGT (or heat index) increases, minimize clothing and equipment.
- (c) Provide unlimited drinking opportunities during hotter practices. NEVER withhold water from athletes.
- (d) Pre and post-practice weigh-ins SHOULD be conducted. NOTE: an athlete who is not within 3% of the previous pre-practice weight should be withheld from practice. These athletes should be counseled on the importance of re-hydrating. Pre and post-practice weigh-ins are recommended for all sports participating during periods of high heat and humidity.

WBGT Index and Athletic Activity Chart

WBGT Index (F)	Heat Index	Athletic Activity Guidelines
Less than 80	Less than 80	Unlimited activity with primary cautions for new or unconditioned athletes or extreme exertion; schedule mandatory rest/water breaks (5 min water/rest break every 30 min)
80 - 84.9	80 - 90	Normal practice for athletes; closely monitor new or unconditioned athletes and all athletes during extreme exertion. Schedule mandatory rest /water breaks. (5 min water/rest break every 25 min)
85 - 87.9	91 - 103	New or unconditioned athletes should have reduced intensity practice and modifications in clothing. Well-conditioned athletes should have more frequent rest breaks and hydration as well as cautious monitoring for symptoms of heat illness. Schedule frequent mandatory rest/water breaks. (5 min water/rest break every 20 min) Have cold or ice immersion pool on site for practice.
88 - 89.9	104 - 124	All athletes must be under constant observation and supervision. Remove pads and equipment. Schedule frequent mandatory rest/water breaks. (5 min water/rest break every 15 min) Have cold or ice immersion pool on site for practice.
90 or Above	125 and up	SUSPEND PRACTICE

NOAAA's National Weather Service Heat Index Chart

Temperature

Humidity	80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110
40	80	81	83	85	88	91	94	97	101	105	109	114	119	124	130	136
45	80	82	84	87	89	93	96	100	104	109	114	119	124	130	137	
50	81	83	85	88	91	95	99	103	108	113	118	124	131	137		
55	81	84	86	89	93	97	101	106	112	117	124	130	137			
60	82	84	88	91	95	100	105	110	116	123	129	137				
65	82	85	89	93	98	103	108	114	121	128	136					
70	83	86	90	95	100	105	112	119	126	134						
75	84	88	92	97	103	109	116	124	132							
80	84	89	94	100	106	113	121	129								
85	85	90	96	102	110	117	126	135								
90	86	91	98	105	113	122	131									
95	86	93	100	108	117	127										
100	87	95	103	112	121	132										

Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure or Strenuous Activity

Caution

Extreme Caution

Danger

Extreme Danger

2.3.4 Recognition of Heat Illness:

- (a) Heat Exhaustion
 - (1) The clinical criteria for heat exhaustion generally include the following:
 - (i) Athlete has obvious difficulty continuing with exercise
 - (ii) Body temperature is usually 101 to 104°F (38.3 to 40.0°C) at the time of collapse or need to drop out of activity.
 - (iii) No significant dysfunction of the central nervous system is present (e.g., seizure, altered consciousness, persistent delirium)
 - (2) If any central nervous system dysfunction develops, such as mild confusion, it resolves quickly with rest and cooling.
 - (3) Patients with heat exhaustion may also manifest:
 - (i) Tachycardia (very fast heart rate) and hypotension (low blood pressure)
 - (ii) Extreme weakness
 - (iii) Dehydration and electrolyte losses
 - (iv) Ataxia (loss of muscle control) and coordination problems, syncope (passing out), light-headedness
 - (v) Profuse sweating, pallor (paleness), “prickly heat” sensations
 - (vi) Headache
 - (vi) Abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
 - (vii) Persistent muscle cramps
- (b) Heat Stroke
 - (1) The two main criteria for diagnosing exertional heat stroke:
 - (i) Rectal temperature above 104°F (40°C), measured immediately following collapse during strenuous activity.
 - (ii) Central Nervous System dysfunction with possible symptoms and signs: disorientation, headache, irrational behavior, irritability, emotional instability, confusion, altered consciousness, coma, or seizure.
 - (2) Most patients are tachycardic and hypotensive.
 - (3) Patients with heat stroke may also exhibit:
 - (i) Hyperventilation
 - (ii) Dizziness
 - (iii) Nausea
 - (iv) Vomiting
 - (v) Diarrhea
 - (vi) Weakness
 - (vii) Profuse sweating
 - (viii) Dehydration
 - (ix) Dry mouth
 - (x) Thirst
 - (xi) Muscle cramps
 - (xii) Loss of muscle function
 - (xiii) Ataxia
 - (4) Absence of sweating with heat stroke is not typical and usually indicates additional medical issues.

2.3.5 Management of Heat Illness:

- (a) A primary goal of management of heat illness is to reduce core body temperature as quickly as possible. When exertional heat stroke is suspected, immediately initiate cooling, and then activate emergency medical system. Remember “Cool First, Transport Second”.
- (b) Remove all equipment and excess clothing
- (c) If appropriate medical staff is present, assess athlete’s rectal temperature
- (d) Immerse the athlete in a tub of cold water (the colder the better). Water temperature should be between 35 to 60°F (2 to 15°C); ice water is ideal but even tepid water is helpful. Maintain an appropriately cool water temperature. Stir the water vigorously during cooling.
- (e) Monitor vital signs (rectal temperature, heart rate, respiratory rate, blood pressure) and mental status continually. Maintain patient safety.
- (f) Cease cooling when rectal temperature reaches 101 to 102°F (38.3 to 38.9°C)
- (g) If an immersion pool is unavailable or in cases of heat exhaustion, use these cooling methods:
 - (i) Place icepacks at head, neck, axillae and groin.
 - (ii) Bathe face and trunk with iced or tepid water.
 - (iii) Fan athlete to help the cooling process.
 - (iv) Move athlete to a shaded or air conditioned area if available near the practice site.

2.3.6 Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act: The Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act was drafted and implemented to protect the safety of student-athletes in North Carolina and was signed into law on July 16, 2011. There are three major areas of focus in the law and these include: education, emergency action and postconcussion protocol implementation, and clearance/return to play or practice following concussion. Each school should maintain documentation that it is in compliance with the law. The following is a guide to steps that will help you, the school administrator, comply with the Gfeller-Waller Law.

- (a) EDUCATE those involved with interscholastic athletic activities.
 - (1) Student-athletes will be provided with the STUDENT CONCUSSION INFORMATION FORM.
 - (2) Students shall read, initial, sign, and return the STUDENT-ATHLETE CONCUSSION STATEMENT form.
 - (3) Parents, coaches, school nurses, athletic directors, first responders, and volunteers will be provided with the ADULT CONCUSSION INFORMATION FORM.
 - (4) All above adults shall read, initial and return the COACH/SCHOOL NURSE/PARENT/VOLUNTEER CONCUSSION STATEMENT form. (It is at the discretion of each educational institution to identify who will distribute, collect, and maintain the above forms.)
- (b) PLAN for what will happen when an injury occurs:
 - (1) Concussion: If a student-athlete exhibits signs and symptoms consistent with a concussion (even if not formally diagnosed), the student-athlete is to be removed from play and is not allowed to return to play (game, practice, or conditioning) on that day.
 - (2) Student-athletes are encouraged to report their own symptoms, or to report if peers may have concussion symptoms. Coaches, parents, volunteers, first responders, school nurses, licensed athletic trainers (if available), are responsible for removing a student-athlete from play if they suspect a concussion.
 - (3) Following the injury, the student-athlete should be evaluated by a qualified medical professional with training in concussion management. It is strongly recommended that each institution seek qualified medical professionals in the surrounding community to serve as resources in the area of concussion management.
 - (4) In order for a student-athlete to return to play without restriction, he/she must have written clearance from appropriate medical personnel. The form that should be used for this written clearance is posted on the Gfeller-Waller website.
- (c) Emergency Action Plan: Each school should have a venue specific Emergency Action Plan (EAP) that follows the specifications outlined in the EAP guidelines on the website.
 - (1) This plan should be: 1) in writing, 2) reviewed by an athletic trainer licensed in North Carolina, 3) approved by the principal of the school, 4) distributed to all appropriate personnel, 5) posted conspicuously at all venues, and 6) reviewed and rehearsed annually by all licensed athletic trainers, first responders, coaches, school nurses, athletic directors, and volunteers for interscholastic athletic activities. The NCHSAA website (Health and Safety Section) has information on the Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act including the Legislation Policy, Compliance Checklist, Student-Athlete and Parent/Legal Custodian Concussion Statement Form, Return to Play Form, Coach/School Nurse Concussion Statement Form and link to the Gfeller/Waller Concussion Awareness Act website.

2.3.7 Cardiac Safety Program: All NCHSAA member schools must have a Cardiac Safety Program to include the following components:

- (a) An appropriate number of AED's on campus relative to athletic facilities
- (b) An AED maintenance program
- (c) Require viewing of short AED/CPR video for all supervising adults. (see Health and Safety Section of NCHSAA website)

2.3.8 Guidelines on Handling Practices and Contests During Lightning or Thunder Disturbances: These guidelines provide guidance to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder. To aid in proactive planning, you may request such a policy for your facility from the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

- (a) Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests. Pre-game coordination with game officials is required with the game day administrator, as assigned by the host school. If no game day administrator is available or identified, the head coach will be designated and recorded as the game day administrator.
- (b) Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safe areas.

- (c) Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
 - (1) When thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for thirty (30) minutes and take shelter immediately.
 - (2) Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
 - (3) Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
 - (d) Review annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel.
 - (e) Inform student-athletes of the lightning policy at start of season.
- Note:** For more detailed information, refer to the “Lightning Safety” section contained in the NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook.

- 2.3.9 **Tobacco Products, Alcoholic Beverages and Controlled Substances:** The North Carolina High School Athletic Association emphatically opposes the use of tobacco (including e-cigarettes/vapor cigarettes), alcohol and other drugs by student-athletes, coaches (including volunteer coaches) and officials.
- (a) Participants, coaches and other team representatives and officials, including chain crew, official scorers and timers, should not use any tobacco product, alcoholic beverage or controlled substance at a game site; violation of the policy will result in ejection from the contest.
 - (b) Member schools are encouraged to make all school property, vehicles including charter buses used by participants, and particularly game sites, tobacco-free and alcohol-free zones. They are also encouraged to cooperate fully with police agencies in the enforcement of the criminal laws prohibiting the sale or use of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, and controlled substances to minors.
 - (c) In order to minimize health and safety risks to North Carolina’s student-athletes, maintain ethical standards as well as reduce liability risks, school personnel and coaches should never knowingly supply, recommend or permit the use of any drug, medication or food supplement solely for performance enhancing purposes.
- 2.3.10 **Performance Enhancing Substances:** The Board supports and endorses the stance of the NFHS in terms of performance-enhancing substances: “In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes, maintain ethical standards and reduce liability risks, school personnel and coaches should never supply, recommend or permit the use of any drug, medication or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes.”
- 2.3.11 **Infectious Disease Policy:** The North Carolina High School Athletic Association has adopted the National Federation Guidelines in an effort to minimize the possibility of transmission of any infectious disease during a high school athletic practice or contest. Each school is strongly encouraged to develop its own action plan for the prevention of the transmission of infectious diseases.

Communicable Disease and Skin Infection Procedures

While the risk for blood-borne infectious diseases, such as HIV/Hepatitis B, remains low in sports, proper precautions are needed to reduce the risk of spreading diseases. Along with these issues are skin infections that occur due to skin contact with competitors and equipment.

Universal Hygiene Protocol for All Sports

- Shower immediately after all competition and practice
- Wash all workout clothing after practice
- Wash personal gear, such as knee pads, periodically
- Don’t share towels or personal hygiene products with others
- Refrain from (full body) cosmetic shaving

Infectious Skin Diseases

Means of reducing the potential exposure to these agents include:

- Notify guardian, athletic trainer and coach of any lesion before competition or practice. Athlete must have a health-care provider evaluate lesion before returning to competition.
- If an outbreak occurs on a team, especially in a contact sport, consider evaluating other team members or potential spread of the infectious agent.
- Follow NFHS or NCHSAA guidelines on “time until return to competition.” Allowance of participation with a covered lesion can occur if approved by health-care provider and in accordance with NFHS or NCHSAA guidelines.

Blood-Borne Infectious Diseases

Means of reducing the potential exposure to these agents include;

- Bleeding must be stopped immediately and all wounds covered. All blood-soaked clothing must be removed before continuing competition or practice. Contaminated clothing must be cleaned before using again.

- Athletic trainers or caregivers need to wear gloves and take other precautions to prevent blood-splash from contaminating themselves or others.
- Immediately wash contaminated skin or mucous membranes with soap and water.
- Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with disinfectant before returning to competition. Be sure to use gloves with cleaning.
- Any blood exposure or bites to the skin that break the surface must be reported and evaluated by a medical provider immediately.

These procedures were obtained and revised by the NFHS (August 2005).

2.3.12 Catastrophic Insurance (Mandatory):

- (a) All schools are required to participate in the catastrophic insurance program.
- (b) The NCHSAA makes a payment on behalf of the schools, and the coverage is in effect beginning August 1 of each school year.
- (c) The schools are to send their premium payments to the NCHSAA office before October 1 of that year. Late renewals are subject to a \$100 fine and schools are not eligible for playoffs beginning with the fall sports season until all fees are paid.
- (d) The master policy will be on file with the NCHSAA.
- (e) The coverage offered under this policy is not meant to replace the basic football or student accident and athletic coverage, but rather is intended to provide benefits for student participants as well as protect member schools against the cost arising out of very serious injuries.
- (f) This policy is available to member schools at a cost of \$3.75 per athlete. The deductible amount will be the greater of (a) \$25,000 or (b) the benefits payable from other collectible group insurance.
- (g) Details on the program and additional materials describing the policy are sent to the membership at the beginning of each school year.

2.3.13 Student Accident Insurance and Athletic Coverage (Voluntary): The NCHSAA is committed to stimulating and sustaining support for a broadly based program, with a primary objective to provide the best student accident and athletic coverage available. Booklets are mailed to each school and representatives are available to discuss the student accident and athletic programs. Please call the NCHSAA office for details of the programs.

2.3.14 Hazing: The NCHSAA encourages coaches and other school personnel to create and vigorously enforce rules against hazing and similar practices.

- (a) Hazing is defined as deliberately subjecting another student to physical injury as part of an initiation, or as a prerequisite for membership, into any organized school group, including any athletic team or other similar group; and is against State law. (G.S. 14-35).
- (b) Regardless of a student's willingness to participate, hazing and other humiliating activities expected of a student to belong to a team or group have many negative consequences. It obstructs the development of good citizens, escalates the risks of participation, negates positive contributions, and destroys respect for self, others and a "wholesome athletic environment."

2.4 SPORTSMANSHIP

THE QUALITY OF RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR CHARACTERIZED BY A SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY AND A GENUINE CONCERN FOR OPPONENTS, OFFICIALS AND TEAMMATES

Students and spectators should:

- realize you represent the school as does a member of a team; therefore, you have an obligation to be a true sportsman, encouraging through this behavior the practice of good sportsmanship by others
- recognize that good sportsmanship is more important than victory by approving and applauding good team play, individual skill and outstanding examples of sportsmanship and fair play exhibited by either team
- remember that the primary purpose of interscholastic athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well-being of the players through the medium of contest
- be modest in victory and gracious in defeat
- respect the judgment and integrity of game officials

Student-athletes are expected to sign the sportsmanship pledge, and coaches are expected to sign the code of conduct for coaches.

2.4.1 Conduct at Games: The NCHSAA Board of Directors has the power to penalize the school and its officials, the coach, and the individual players in case sportsmanship is not observed. The penalty is to be decided according to the seriousness of the incidents involved.

- (a) **Police protection:** A law enforcement officer in uniform shall be present at all high school varsity football and basketball games and is recommended for soccer, lacrosse and baseball games, with member schools using their own best judgment as to when and if police are needed in that sport.