LEGAL ISSUES IN SPORTS

2009-2010 KHSAA Annual Meeting
September 22, 2009
UK Sports Medicine
Purpose


Knowing any risks your sport/venue may have and taking the proper steps to reduce them if possible.
Is this safe?

Batting cages unlocked, no helmets.

Wearing sandals in batting cages.

Unsupervised in weight room.

Early morning conditioning workouts with no water.

Team outing going swimming with no lifeguards.

“I’d like to thank everyone for their enthusiastic help with my first aid presentation. Could you please come back and unbandage me?”
Responsibilities of Coaching

Coaches have a responsibility to do their best to keep the athletes safe at all times

Reducing your risks!!
Plan for Emergencies

Emergency Action Plan- EAP
Assigns tasks for all involved
Less stress when planning ahead
CPR/First aid training
KHSAA Safety Course and Medical Symposums
Venue Specific

- Practice site, Competition Site

Address - EMS

Directions - EMS

Closest hospital, Urgent Treatment Center

Team Physician information - cell phone
EAP- Personnel

- Make the EMS call
- Meet EMS – unlock gates
- Crowd control
- Get emergency equipment – splints, AED
- Contact parents
- Go to hospital if needed
EAP- Equipment /Forms

Physical forms on site with all pertinent information
- Emergency contact information
- Medications athlete is taking or allergic to
- Pre-existing conditions

Any special needs equipment on site- inhalers, medication, epi-pens

Medical kit on site
Splints on site
AED- know where it is and how to get to it
EAP- Implementation

Signed by Coaches, Athletic Director, Principal
Kept with Medical kit at every practice/event

MUST BE PRACTICED IN ORDER TO WORK!
Pre-participation Physical Exam - PPE

REVIEW!

Physician follow up instructions
Medications
Pre-existing conditions
Assumption of Risk
Informed Consent
Risk Reduction

- Equipment
- Playing fields
- Proper techniques
- Environmental factors
- PPE
- Safe travel options
Risk Reduction

- Length of practice/rest
- Time/availability of water breaks
- Documentation of injuries
- Medical coverage full-time
Injuries

Seek medical help
Have documented Dr. notes
Follow them!!!
Doctor’s note overrides everyone else
Certified Athletic Trainers

Legal medical coverage for the athletes under their care
Decision making
Coaches decide whether athletes can play effectively, ATCs decide whether athletes can play safely and injury-free
Take-Home Points

Plan ahead- PRACTICE EAP
Reduce your risks
Keep records
When in doubt, ask!

“The will to win is important, but the will to prepare is vital.”

Joe Paterno