

Blood Borne Pathogen Policy

Outlined below are the "standard precautions" with additions and modifications relevant to the athletics arena.

1. Pre-event preparation includes proper care for wounds, abrasions, cuts or weeping wounds that may serve as a source of bleeding or as a port of entry for blood-borne pathogens. These wounds should be covered with an occlusive dressing that will withstand the demands of competition. Likewise, care providers with healing wounds or dermatitis should have these areas adequately covered to prevent transmission to or from a participant. Student-athletes may be advised to wear more protective equipment on high-risk areas, such as elbows and hands.
2. The necessary equipment and/or supplies important for compliance with standard precautions should be available to caregivers. These supplies include appropriate gloves, disinfectant bleach, antiseptics, designated receptacles for soiled equipment and uniforms, bandages and/or dressings and a container for appropriate disposal of needles, syringes or scalpels.
3. When a student-athlete is bleeding, the bleeding must be stopped and the open wound covered with a dressing sturdy enough to withstand the demands of activity before the student athlete may continue participation in practice or competition.

Participants with active bleeding should be removed from the event as soon as is practical. Return to play is determined by appropriate medical staff personnel. Any participant whose uniform is saturated with blood, regardless of the source, must have that uniform evaluated by appropriate medical personnel for potential infectivity and changed if necessary before return to participation.

4. During an event, early recognition of uncontrolled bleeding is the responsibility of officials, student athletes, coaches and medical personnel. In particular, student-athletes should be aware of their responsibility to report a bleeding wound to the proper medical personnel.
5. Personnel managing an acute blood exposure must follow the guidelines for standard precaution. Sterile gloves should be worn for direct contact with blood or body fluids containing blood. Gloves should be changed after treating each individual participant and after glove removal, hands should be washed.
6. Any surface contaminated with spilled blood should be cleaned in accordance with the following procedures: With gloves on, the spill should be contained in as small an area as possible. After the blood is removed, the surface area of concern should be cleaned with an appropriate decontaminate. (see Blood Borne Exposure Control Plan)
7. Proper disposal procedures should be practiced to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.
8. After each practice or game, any equipment or uniforms soiled with blood should be handled and laundered in accordance with hygienic methods normally used for treatment of any soiled equipment or clothing before subsequent use. This includes provisions for bagging the soiled items in a manner to prevent secondary contamination of other items or personnel.
9. Finally, all personnel involved with sports should be trained in basic first aid and infection control, including the preventive measures outlined previously. Policies exist for orientation and education of all staff members on the prevention and transmission of blood-borne pathogens.