PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Health Services

Parent/Student CIF Heat Illness Information Sheet

What is Heat Illness and how would I recognize it? Exercise produces heat within the body and can increase the player's body temperature. Add to this a hot or humid day and any barriers to heat loss such as padding and equipment, and the temperature of the individual can become dangerously high.

Heat Illness occurs when metabolically produced heat combines with that gained from the environment to exceed the heat and large sweat losses. Young athletes should be pre-screened at their pre-participation physical exam form education/supplement use, cardiac disease, history of sickle cell trait, and previous heat injury. Athletes with any of these factors should be supervised closely during strenuous activities in a hot climate.

Much of one's body heat is eliminated by sweat. Once this water leaves the body, it must be replaced. Along with water loss, many other minerals are lost in the sweat. Most of the commercial drinks now available contain these minerals, such as Gatorade, etc., but just plain water is all that is really required because the athlete will replace the lost minerals with his/her normal diet.

PREVENTION: There are several steps which can be taken to prevent heat illness from occurring:

ADEQUATE HYDRATION: The athlete should arrive at practice well-hydrated to reduce the risk of dehydration. The color of the urine can provide a quick guess at how hydrated the athlete. If the urine is dark like apple juice means the athlete is dehydrated. If the urine is light like lemonade in color means the athlete seems adequately hydrated.

Water or sports drinks should be readily available to athletes during practice and should be served ideally chilled in containers that allow adequate volumes of fluid to be ingested. Water breaks should be given at least every 30-45 minutes and should be long enough to allow athletes to ingest adequate volumes of fluid. Athletes should be instructed to continue fluid replacement in between practice sessions.

GRADUAL ACCLIMATIZATION: Intensity and duration of exercise should be gradually increased over a period of 7-14 days to give athletes' time to build fitness levels and become accustomed to practicing in the heat. Protective equipment should be introduced in phases (start with helmet, progress to helmet and shoulder pads, and finally fully uniform).

HEAT EXHAUSTION: Inability to continue exercise due to heat-induced symptoms. Occurs with an elevated body-core temperature between 97- and 104-degrees Fahrenheit.

• Dizziness, lightheadedness, weakness • Headache • Nausea • Diarrhea, urge to defecate • Pallor, chills	• Profuse sweating • Cool, clammy skin • Hyperventilation • Decreased urine output

TREATMENT: Stop exercise, move player to a cool place, remove excess clothing, give fluids if conscious, COOL BODY: fans, cold water, ice towels, or ice packs. Fluid replacement should occur as soon as possible. The athlete should be referred to a hospital emergency if recovery is not rapid. When in doubt, CALL 911. Athletes with heat exhaustion should be assessed by a physician as soon as possible in all cases.

HEAT STROKE: Dysfunction or shutdown of body systems due to elevated body temperature which cannot be controlled. This occurs with a body-core temperature greater than 107 degrees Fahrenheit.

WARNING SYMPTOMS: This is a MEDICAL EMERGENCY. Death may result if not treated properly and rapidly. Treatment: Stop exercise, Call 911, remove from heat, remove clothing, immerse athlete in cold water for aggressive, rapid cooling (if immersion is not possible, cool the athlete as described for heat exhaustion), monitor vital signs until paramedics arrive.

• Dizziness • Drowsiness, loss of consciousness • Seizures • Staggering, disorientation • Behavioral/cognitive changes (confusion, irritability, aggressiveness, hysteria, emotional instability)	• Weakness • Hot and wet or dry skin • Rapid heartbeat, low blood pressure • Hyperventilation • Vomiting, diarrhea

Final Thoughts for Parents and Guardians:

Heat stress should be considered when planning and preparing for any sports activity. Summer and fall sports are conducted in very hot and humid weather in many parts of the California. Many of the heat problems have been associated with football, due to added equipment which acts as a barrier to heat dissipation. Several heatstroke deaths continue to occur each season in the United States. There is no excuse for heatstroke deaths if the proper precautions are taken.

You should also feel comfortable talking to the coaches or athletic trainer about possible heat illness signs and symptoms that you may be seeing in your child.
I acknowledge that I have received and read the CIF Heat Illness Information Sheet.

Student-Athlete Name - *Printed*	Student-Athlete - *Signature*	Date
Parent Or Legal Guardian Name - *Printed*	Parent or Legal Guardian - *Signature*	Date