

FHSAA Heart Screening – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Heart Screening requirement?

Effective July 1, 2026, pursuant to Florida's Second Chance Act, certain students must complete a one-time heart screening prior to participation in any FHSAA-sanctioned athletic activity, including tryouts, practices, and workouts. Students meeting the EL1 requirement that are participating in summer activities with the school will need a completed EL1 prior to continuing activities after July 1.

Who is required to complete a heart screening?

The requirement applies to:

- All incoming 9th grade student-athletes
- Students in grades 10–12 who have not previously participated in an FHSAA high school sport

Note: Students who have already participated in an FHSAA sport are not required to complete the screening; however, it is strongly recommended.

Can my child participate before completing the EL1?

No. Students who meet the screening requirement must complete and submit the FHSAA EL1 form verifying the heart screening (or approved exemption) prior to participation.

Why is this screening important?

Heart screenings are designed to help identify undetected cardiac conditions that may increase the risk of sudden cardiac events during athletic participation. Early detection supports the health and safety of student-athletes.

Where can my child complete the screening?

Screenings may be completed through:

- School-sponsored events (on-site screenings)
- Approved organizations such as Who We Play For
- A licensed healthcare provider, clinic, or hospital

Students should consult their school athletic director or coach for available options.

Does the heart screening need to be completed before the sports physical?

No. The heart screening (EL1) and the preparticipation physical evaluation (EL2) are separate requirements and may be completed in any order.

What is the cost of the screening?

- Many providers offer screenings at no cost or reduced rates
 - School-based screenings are capped at \$50 in accordance with state guidelines
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What if my child misses a school-based screening?

Contact your school's athletic department to identify additional opportunities. Families may also:

- Utilize community screening events
 - Schedule an appointment with a healthcare provider
 - Visit www.whoweplayfor.org for upcoming screening dates
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Do private school student-athletes need a screening?

Yes. All student-athletes attending FHSAA member schools, including private schools, must comply with this requirement.

What documentation is required?

Completion of the FHSAA EL1 form is required to certify:

- Completion of the heart screening, or
 - Documentation of an exemption/objection
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Is a physician signature required on the EL1?

- No, in most cases the parent/guardian completes and signs the EL1
- A physician signature is required in Section B if the screening is conducted by a private healthcare provider

Does a middle school screening count?

Students entering 9th grade must complete the requirement; however, a screening performed on or after July 1, 2024 may satisfy the requirement, provided documentation is submitted.

Can a parent or guardian opt out?

Yes. An exemption may be selected for religious reasons only by the parent or guardian and must be properly documented on the EL1 form.

Is this an annual requirement?

No. The heart screening is a one-time requirement during a student's high school eligibility period.

How do schools track compliance?

Schools maintain compliance through Home Campus, the approved eligibility software for FHSAA schools, where the EL1 form will be required and monitored.

What if my child transfers schools?

Parents/guardians should maintain copies of:

- Heart screening results
- Completed EL1 form

These documents must be provided to the receiving school for eligibility verification.

Who performs the screening?

Screenings are administered by trained professionals, with results reviewed by a licensed physician.

What if additional testing is required?

A recommendation for additional testing does not necessarily indicate a medical condition, but rather the need for further evaluation. Families will be provided guidance on next steps.

Are additional forms available for physician use?

Yes. The FHSA provides supplemental forms, including:

- EL1/2S Form – for physician documentation and additional clearance following further evaluation
- ME1 Form – allows a physician to exempt a student from screening if under active medical care

These forms are available on the FHSA website.

How can schools connect with Who We Play For?

- Website: www.whoweplayfor.org
- Phone: 1-888-906-9973

Important Reminder

The heart screening requirement is intended to enhance the safety of all student-athletes. Students experiencing cardiac symptoms or concerns should consult a licensed healthcare provider prior to participation.

