

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF WARNING BY STUDENT-ATHLETE

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby acknowledge that I have been properly advised, cautioned  
Name of Student-Athlete  
and warned by the proper administrative and coaching personnel of the Halifax Area School District, that by participating in the sport of **SOCCER** I am exposing myself to the risk of serious injury, including but not limited to, the risk of contracting infectious diseases (COVID- 19, etc.), sprains, fractures and ligament and/or cartilage damage which could result in a temporary or permanent, partial or complete, impairment in the use of my limbs; brain damage; paralysis; or even death. Having been so cautioned and warned, it is still my desire to participate in the above sport, and should I choose to participate in the above sport, I hereby further acknowledge that I do so with full knowledge and understanding of the risk of serious injury to which I am exposing myself by participating in the above sport.

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Student-Athlete Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF WARNING BY PARENTS

We/I, the caregiver(s) of \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby acknowledge that we/I have been fully advised, cautioned and warned by the proper administrative and coaching personnel of the Halifax Area School District that our/my child named above may suffer serious injury, including but not limited to the risk of contracting infectious diseases (COVID- 19, etc.), sprains, fractures, brain damage, paralysis or even death, by participating in the sport **SOCCER**.

Notwithstanding such warnings, and with full knowledge and understanding of the risk of serious injury to our/my child named above which may result, we/I give our consent to

\_\_\_\_\_ participating in the sport of **SOCCER**.  
Name of Student-Athlete Name of Sport

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**HALIFAX AREA ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT  
IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSUMPTION OF RISK POLICY**

Acknowledge of Warning by Student-Athlete/Acknowledgment of Warning by Parents

Liability for failure to warn is one of the most prevalent allegations in sports injury litigation. Schools, athletic administrators, coaches, physical education instructors, intramural sport program supervisors, soccer sponsors, and other athletic personnel have repeatedly been found negligent for failing to warn athletic participants of both the general nature of the risks involved in an athletic activity and the specific risks involved in using improper or dangerous techniques while participating in the activity.

Assumption of risk is a common defense used in sports injury lawsuits and it is closely related to the duty to provide warnings. The assumption of risk defense is typically asserted by a coach who argues that the player was voluntarily participating in a risky activity where injury was a real possibility. However, courts have consistently held that the only risks which a student-athlete may assume are those risks which are **fully comprehended** by the player and which are **inherent** in the particular sport.

By the very nature of athletic activity, participants are at risk of physical injury. No matter how careful the athlete and the coach are, no matter how many precautions are taken, the risk cannot be eliminated. It can be reduced but never eliminated. The risk of injury includes minor injuries such as broken bones, dislocations, and muscle strains. The risk also includes catastrophic injuries such as permanent paralysis or even death. It is important everyone understands these risks, and that athletes follow all safety directions from their coach because they are established to reduce the risk of injury.

All coaches are required to make sure that each of their student-athletes and their parent-guardian read and sign the "Acknowledgment of Warning by Student-Athlete and Parents" form. Copies can be obtained from the Athletic Director. When each form is signed, return the signed forms to the Athletic Director who will keep them on file. Each coach is responsible for making sure the forms are signed and returned by each student-athlete.

The "Acknowledge of Warning" forms can be handed out and signed at the pre-season parent meetings. Also, a video tape is available through the athletic department illustrating the risks of sports which may be used at the pre-season meeting as well. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this procedure, please contact the athletic administration.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF WARNING BY STUDENT-ATHLETE AND PARENT – SOCCER**  
**Halifax Area Athletic Department**

Soccer is a highly competitive, fast-action sport in which physical contact plays a major role. Because of the speed and contact with which the game is played, team members, their families and coaching staff must accept and share certain responsibilities to enhance safety and enjoyment for participants.

**PREPARATION FOR PRACTICE OF CONTEST**

1. Wear protective equipment including shin guards and mouth guards to every practice and contests unless other wise indicated by the daily practice plan.
2. Be sure all stabilizing straps and laces are properly worn, tightened and all fasteners secured so equipment is properly positioned.
3. Wear outer and under garments that are appropriated for humidity and temperature.
4. Players with visual impairment(s) must wear corrective, shatterproof glasses or contact lenses if the impairment affects judgment or perception.
5. In hot, humid weather, players should consume the necessary amount of fluids as directed by the athletic trainer.
6. Players needing protective tape, padding, or bracing should arrive early to receive necessary treatment by the athletic trainer.
7. Remove **ALL** jewelry and hair fasteners.
8. Players with seizure, neuromuscular, renal, cardiac, insulin/diabetic, chronic skeletal problems, disorders, diseases, or medically controlled allergies need a physician's approval to participate.

**LOCKER ROOM**

1. Be alert to slippery floors.
2. Be alert to changes in floor texture and to elevated thresholds between shower and locker rooms.
3. Keep floors free of litter. Place all personal belongings in assigned lockers and lock up all valuables.
4. Close and lock locker doors when away from your assigned locker.
5. Keep soap and shampoo in the shower area. Use foot powder in designated areas.
6. Refrain from rapid movements, horseplay and inappropriate behavior in the locker/shower areas.
7. Identify incidents of foot or skin infections to coach(s) and athletic trainer immediately.

**MOVEMENT TO THE PRACTICE/GAME SITE**

1. Be alert to: ramps leading to practice/game area.
  - a. Variations in the surfaces of ramps, locker rooms, artificial surfaces and court surfaces.
  - b. Locations and activity in proximity
    1. Warm up drills involving practice strikes, etc.
    2. Ongoing games as you enter the field area(s).
    3. Be alert to the goal mouth, goal posts and shooting drills.
    4. Be alert to fast dribbling or passing drills.

**CAUTIONS SPECIFIC TO SOCCER**

Players will be taught techniques that are approved by the National Federation of State High Schools Association and the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association. The following techniques are a major importance for player safety:

1. Play the ball when on defense – **DO NOT** attack the offensive opponent with illegal contact.
2. When involved in shooting drills, shoot in specified sequences and in designated areas/directions.
3. High kicks or inappropriate/illegal contact is prohibited.

4. Shatterproof glasses or lenses must be worn if needed for perception and judgment. Eyewear specifically designed for racquet sports is suggested.
5. Charging or contacting the keeper is prohibited.
6. Shin pads must be worn by all players.
7. Players must keep the mouth closed when heading the ball.
8. Players must brace the neck and strike the ball with the upper portion of the forehead when heading the ball.
9. Intentional pushing and tripping is prohibited.

### **EMERGENCIES**

Because of the nature of soccer, injuries could occur. All injuries must be called to a coach's or athletic trainer's attention. However, some may need more intense management and may also require players to:

1. Stop all practices, scrimmages or drills.
2. Call the coach and athletic trainer to manage the situation if he/she is not already on site.
3. Possibly assist by:
  - a. Calling for additional assistance.
  - b. Bringing first aid equipment or supplies to the site.
  - c. Keeping onlookers away.
  - d. Directing the rescue squad to the accident site.
4. Fire or fire alarm:
  - a. Evacuate or remain outside the building.
  - b. Move 100 yards from the building.
  - c. Be prepared to implement emergency procedures outlined in #3.

**PLEASE READ, SIGN AND RETURN THE ATTACHED "ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF WARNINGS" TO THE SPORT-SPECIFIC COACH OR TO THE ATHLETIC SECRETARY.**