

NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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Memorandum

To: All Athletic Directors of Member Schools
From: Tony Maselli, Assistant Director
Date: June 2019
Re: Opioid Education Video Procedure

To All Athletic Directors:

Acting to address the increased risk of opioid abuse among high school athletes, the Office of the New Jersey Coordinator for Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies (NJCARES) and the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) announced on February 19, 2019, a new partnership to educate student athletes and their parents/guardians on addiction risks associated with sports injuries and opioid use.

This educational initiative, spearheaded by Attorney General Gurbir Grewal and approved by the Executive Committee of the NJSIAA, is a collaborative effort to use video programming to raise awareness among high school athletes that they face a higher risk of becoming addicted to prescription pain medication than their fellow students who do not play sports.

Beginning with the 2019 fall season, we are making available to all student athletes and their parents/guardians, an educational video about the risks of opioid use as it relates to student athletes. The video will be available on August 1, 2019 and can be found on the NJSIAA website under "Athlete Wellness" which is located under the "Health & Safety" tab. We are strongly encouraging student athletes and parents/guardians to watch the video as soon as it becomes available. An acknowledgement that students and their parents/guardians have watched the video will be required starting with the 2019-2020 winter season.

All member schools are asked to add to their current athletic consent forms the sign-off listed below. The sign-off acknowledgment is an NJSIAA mandate; student athletes are required to view the video only once per school year prior to the first official practice of the season in their respective sport, but the signed acknowledgment is required for each sport a student participates in. Athletes that are 18 years or older do not need the parents/guardians to watch the video.

NJSIAA OPIOID POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We have viewed the NJ CARES educational video on the risks of opioid use for high school athletes. We understand the NJSIAA policy that requires students, and their parents(s)/guardian(s) if a student is under the age of 18, to view this video and sign this acknowledgement.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____