

***FCPS POSITION STATEMENT***  
**CARE OF THE INJURED ATHLETE WHILE PARTICIPATING IN  
FCPS ATHLETICS**

**I. PURPOSE**

To provide for the health and safety of student athletes by establishing procedures for the treatment and disposition of injuries sustained by student athletes during participation in FCPS athletics.

**II. SPORTS MEDICINE TEAM**

The Sports Medicine Team for athletic activities at each school shall consist of the athletic trainers\* and the designated team physician or physicians (who shall be designated M.D. or D.O. and licensed and in good standing to practice their profession in the Commonwealth of Virginia). Members of the Sports Medicine Team shall be responsible for providing first responder emergency first aid services, follow-up evaluation and treatment, and rehabilitation services for injured athletes under FCPS supervision. In addition, the Sports Medicine Team\*\* shall make the final determination of when an injured athlete may resume participation in FCPS athletics.

**III. TREATMENT OF INJURIES**

The team physician(s) shall provide emergency medical care and treatment to students injured while participating in FCPS athletics. In the absence of a team physician, the athletic trainer shall bear primary responsibility for providing emergency care and follow-up treatment to injured athletes.

In the absence of a Sports Medicine Team member, the team coach shall bear the responsibility for providing first responder and emergency first aid to injured athletes. The team coach shall confer with the athletic trainer prior to permitting further participation of the injured athlete in an athletic practice or competition.

In the event a physician charged with the care and treatment of an injured athlete determines that the athlete should not resume participation in FCPS athletics, the athlete shall not be permitted to participate for the period of time specified in writing by the physician, unless that physician or another physician subsequently provides written authorization for participation.

In the event the attending physician determines that the athlete is in suitable condition to resume participation in FCPS athletics, the athlete shall be re-evaluated by the athletic trainer. If it is the judgement of the athletic trainer that the student athlete is not in suitable physical condition to resume full participation, a restricted participation schedule will be formulated by the athletic trainer to allow for additional recovery/healing, and a progressive return to full participation.

In the event there is a disagreement with the judgement of the athletic trainer after the re-evaluation, the student athlete will not participate beyond the athletic trainer's recommendations until the Sports Medicine Team has an opportunity to consult with the treating physician, and an agreement between the treating physician and the Sports Medicine Team is made.

**IV. CARE BY THIRD PARTIES**

In no event shall the medical care of an athlete within Fairfax County Public Schools facilities involve the manipulation, massage, diagnosis or adjustment of an injury or condition without the approval of a member of the Sports Medicine Team.

\*As used in this position statement, the term athletic trainer shall mean all NATABOC certified athletic trainers employed by FCPS, including substitute certified athletic trainers.

\*\*In the absence of one or more members of the Sports Medicine Team, Team decisions shall be made by the member(s) present.