

# **Florida Second Chance Act - Summary**

## **Purpose**

- Created to prevent sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) in student-athletes by requiring electrocardiogram (EKG/ECG) screenings before participation in school athletics.
- Named in honor of Chance Gainer, a Florida high school athlete who died from sudden cardiac arrest.

## **Who Must Obtain an ECG**

- All incoming 9th-grade student-athletes
- Any student in grades 10–12 who has never participated in an FHSAA-sanctioned sports  
Returning athletes are not required but strongly encouraged to obtain an ECG. The goal is to identify undetected cardiac risk factors and enhance athlete safety.

## **Documentation**

A one-page standardized form will confirm ECG completion, including:

- Parent/guardian attestation
- Clinician verification
- Interpretation Standards - To ensure accuracy and minimize false positives, clinicians must use the most current International Criteria for Electrocardiographic Interpretation in Athletes. FHSAA will collaborate with statewide medical societies to provide education and training for consistent application.
- Referral information, if needed
  - Although the form will not be officially released until Board approval in early 2026, families are encouraged to complete screenings early. An ECG performed on or after July 1, 2024 will satisfy the requirement.

## **Why It Matters**

- SCA is the #1 cause of death among student-athletes on school campuses.
- Students with abnormal EKGs may not participate until they receive written medical clearance.
- Roughly 1 in 300 youths has an undiagnosed heart condition.
- Traditional sports physicals miss up to 90% of at-risk youth, while EKGs detect 94%.

## **Impact & Community Response**

- Some districts have previously had this as a district policy and have already led to life-saving early detections at school-based EKG events (i.e. Volusia & Seminole Counties)
- We have insufficient resources (Pediatric Cardiologists and EKG machines at common physical locations) in our county to meet the needs of this new mandate.
- Florida is recognized as the first state to require EKG screenings statewide for high school athletes.

# **Summary - Who We Play For (WWPF) - Heart Screening Agreement**

## **Purpose of Agreement**

- Partnership between the Hernando County School Board (HCSB) and Who We Play For (WWPF) to provide electrocardiogram (EKG) heart screenings to district students.
- Supports compliance with state mandate under s.1006.20, requiring cardiac screenings for athletic eligibility.
- Aligns with district priority of improving student safety and sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) prevention.

## **Term & Termination**

- 3-year agreement, effective upon final signature.
- May be renewed with written consent of both parties.
- Either party may terminate with 30-day written notice, with or without cause

## **Services Provided**

- WWPF delivers full-service on-site EKG screenings for any district student.
- Events scheduled jointly at district locations.
- Screenings must follow FHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee standards.
- WWPF staff handle administration, equipment, result interpretation, and communication.
- District is not responsible for obtaining or storing parent consent forms.

## **Results & Communication**

- WWPF communicates screening results to:
  - Parents/guardians within 3–7 business days, including EKG copies and recommendations.
  - School-designated staff (low-risk, follow-up needed, or high-risk).
- High-risk findings require phone call + email follow-up from WWPF.
- Return-to-play decisions made exclusively by qualified interpreting physicians, not the district.

## **Cost Structure**

- \$20 per student screening for those able to pay.
- Free screening for any student unable to pay—WWPF will not turn away students.
- WWPF determines financial need and covers unpaid costs.
- HCSB agrees to assist WWPF in pursuing partnerships to offset financial shortfalls.

## **Compliance & Legal Responsibilities**

- Insurance: Both parties must maintain required liability and medical malpractice coverage.
- Indemnification:
  - WWPF indemnifies HCSB for issues arising from WWPF negligence.
  - HCSB retains sovereign immunity protections.
- Liability Protection: District not liable for cardiac events in students who received medical clearance or exemptions.
- Background Checks: WWPF staff must fully comply with the Jessica Lunsford Act before working with students.
- Data Security & Privacy: Must comply with FERPA, HIPAA, CIPA, GLBA, and district cybersecurity standards.
- Public Records: WWPF must meet all Florida Public Records Act requirements; failure is a material breach.

## **Additional Contract Provisions**

- WWPF must maintain all related records for 7 years.
- Relationship is independent contractor, not partnership/employment.