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MEMBER OF THE
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
STATE HIGH SCHOOL
ASSOCIATIONS

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TO: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

BILL: Senate Bill (SB) 593 - Education – Student Athletic Activities – Physical Examinations and Cardiovascular Prescreening

DATE: March 4, 2026

POSITION: Letter of Information

The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) submits this written informational only testimony for Senate Bill 593 (SB593), *Education – Student Athletic Activities – Physical Examinations and Cardiovascular Prescreening*. The MPSSAA acknowledges the critical importance of ensuring the health and safety of student-athletes and supports measures that protect their well-being during high school sports events. The MPSSAA respectfully requests the following information be taken into consideration regarding the possible impacts of Senate Bill 593.

SB 593 requires cardiovascular prescreening as part of the preparticipation physical evaluation (PPE). In May 2024, the MPSSAA, in consultation with its Medical Advisory Committee—including physicians, pediatricians, school health professionals, and athletic trainers—adopted an updated PPE reflecting the most current medical guidance related to cardiovascular prescreening. The revised PPE incorporates a thorough review of individual medical history, family medical history, and cardiovascular risk factors. It also includes a clearly highlighted statement advising consideration of an electrocardiogram (ECG), echocardiogram, and referral to cardiology when an abnormal cardiac history, examination finding, or family history is present to address the risk of Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Sudden Cardiac Death.

The MPSSAA has concerns regarding provisions that would require the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to oversee training and continuing education for physicians conducting cardiovascular screening. Neither the MPSSAA nor MSDE has the statutory authority, resources, medical infrastructure, or professional network necessary to provide or mandate physician training and continuing education. Additionally, members of the MPSSAA Medical Advisory Committee serve in a volunteer capacity and do not have the ability to assume these expanded responsibilities.

The MPSSAA is also concerned about the requirement that a physical examination occur no earlier than 90 days prior to the start of the academic year. Limiting examinations to a June–August window may create access and affordability challenges for students and families. Insurance providers may restrict coverage for multiple physicals within a calendar year, and the concentrated demand during summer months could strain both families and healthcare providers, potentially limiting timely access to required evaluations.

The MPSSAA supports appropriate and evidence-based medical screening for high school student-athletes and respectfully asks the Committee to consider the potential impact of SB 593, particularly with respect to access, affordability, and practical implementation.

The MPSSAA respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate SB 593. For further information, please contact Andy Warner, MPSSAA Executive Director, at 410-767-0376, or Robert.warner1@maryland.gov.



MARYLAND PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (MPSSAA)

Recommended Preparticipation Physical Form

MPSSAA Medical Advisory Committee

Student Athlete and Parent/Guardian Check list for Sports Registration

- _____ 1. Please make sure to read all information that your school provides about Eligibility, Expectations, Tryouts, Practice & Game Schedules, Transportation (to and from games), Login to the School System Registration website.
- _____ 2. Page 2: Health History form. This is filled out by the student athlete & parent/guardian. Please fill out the Student Athlete Health History form, take it to the Pre-participation Physical Exam (PPE) appointment and review with the Healthcare Professional. Make sure to clarify/explain any questions that you have answered "YES". Please keep a copy to turn into the school.
- _____ 3. Page 3: Pre-participation Physical Exam (PPE). This will be completed by a Medical Doctor (MD), Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO), Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP) or Physician Assistant – Certified (PA-C) only.
Pre-participation Physical may not be completed/signed by a parent/guardian even if they are a licensed healthcare professional.
 - Before leaving the appointment, please make sure the following have been completed:
 - ___ The Healthcare provider signed, dated, and stamped the PPE.
 - ___ The Healthcare provider has checked off the appropriate participation in athletics box.
 - ___ You have both the Health History form and Pre-participation, Physical Exam (PPE) form. (you will need to provide both forms to the school during sports registration)
- _____ 4. Page 4: Emergency Information Form (to be completed and signed by parent/guardian). This information will be shared with the coach(es) in case of an emergency at practice/game.
- _____ 5. Students who require medication at school (including during school team practices or games) must have a doctor's order on file with the school's nurse for each medicine. Please visit this link and take this form to your Healthcare provider for school medication administration authorization. (This needs to be completed each year) [School Medication Administration Authorization Form \(marylandpublicschools.org\)](https://marylandpublicschools.org)

The information provided on the Health History and Pre-Participation Physical is considered confidential medical records, it is established and maintained for every student. The confidentiality of a student's medical records information is protected under the federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Maryland state law and/or the local school system policy, as applicable.

The pre-participation physical examination is not a substitute for a thorough annual examination by a student's primary care physician.

Completion of the Preparticipation Physical is a requirement for student-athlete participation in interscholastic athletics. Falsifying information, forging signatures, or misrepresentation of a student's physical fitness compromises the health and safety of the student and may lead to penalties assessed by the local educational agency, including potential determination of ineligibility.

PART II- MEDICAL HISTORY (Explain "YES" answers below) Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

This form must be completed and signed, prior to the physical examination, for review by examining practitioner.

Explain "YES" answers below with number of the question. Circle questions you don't know the answers to.

GENERAL MEDICAL HISTORY		YES	NO	MEDICAL QUESTIONS CONTINUED		YES	NO	
1. Do you have any concerns you want to discuss with your provider?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		24. Have you had mononucleosis (mono) within the last month?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
2. Has a provider ever denied or restricted your participation in sports for any reason?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		25. Are you missing a kidney, eye, testicle, spleen or other internal organ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3. Do you have any ongoing medical conditions? If so, please identify: <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma <input type="checkbox"/> Anemia <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> Infections. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		26. Do you have groin or testicle pain or a painful bulge or hernia in the groin area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
4. Are you taking any medications or supplements daily?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		27. Have you ever become ill while exercising in the heat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5. Do you have allergies to any medications?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		28. When exercising in the heat, do you have severe muscle cramps?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
6. Do you have any recurring skin rashes or rashes that come and go, including herpes or methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		29. Do you have headaches from exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
7. Have you ever spent the night in the hospital? If yes, why? _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		30. Have you ever had numbness, tingling or weakness in your arms or legs or been unable to move your arms or legs AFTER being hit or falling?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
8. Have you ever had surgery?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		31. Do you have sickle cell trait or disease? Does someone in your family have sickle cell trait or disease?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU			YES	NO	32. Have you had any other blood disorders?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Have you ever passed out or nearly passed out DURING or AFTER exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		33. Have you had a concussion or head injury that caused confusion, a prolonged headache or memory problems?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
10. Have you ever had discomfort, pain, tightness, or pressure in your chest during exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		34. Have you had or do you have any problems with your eyes or vision?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
11. Does your heart race, flutter in your chest or skip beats (irregular beats) during exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		35. Do you wear glasses or contacts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
12. Has a doctor ever ordered a test for your heart? For example, electrocardiography or echocardiography.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		36. Do you wear protective eyewear like goggles or a face shield?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
13. Has a doctor ever told you that you have any heart problems, including: <input type="checkbox"/> High blood pressure <input type="checkbox"/> A heart murmur <input type="checkbox"/> High cholesterol <input type="checkbox"/> A heart infection <input type="checkbox"/> Kawasaki Disease <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		37. Do you worry about your weight?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
14. Do you get light-headed or feel shorter of breath than your friends during exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		38. Have you ever been diagnosed with an eating disorder?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
15. Have you ever had a seizure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		39. Are you on a special diet or do you avoid certain types of foods or food groups?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY			YES	NO	40. Allergies to food or stinging insects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16. Does anyone in your family have a heart problem?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		41. Have you ever had a COVID-19 diagnosis? Date: _____				
17. Has any family member or relative died of heart problems or had an unexpected or unexplained sudden death before age 50 (including drowning or unexplained car crash)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		42. What is the date of your last Tdap or Td (tetanus) immunization? (circle type) Date: _____				
18. Does anyone in your family have a genetic heart problem such as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), Marfan syndrome, arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC), long QT syndrome (LQTS), short QT syndrome (SQTS), Brugada syndrome, or catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia (CPVT)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		FEMALES ONLY			YES	NO
19. Has anyone in your family had a pacemaker or an implanted defibrillator before age 50?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		45. Have you ever had a menstrual period?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
BONE AND JOINT QUESTIONS			YES	NO	46. Age when you had your first menstrual period: _____			
20. Have you ever had a stress fracture or an injury to a bone, muscle, ligament, joint, or tendon that caused you to miss a practice or game?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		47. Number of periods in the last 12 months: _____				
21. Do you currently have a bone, muscle, or joint injury that bothers you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		48. When was your most recent menstrual period? _____				
MEDICAL QUESTIONS			YES	NO	EXPLAIN "YES" ANSWERS BELOW list the number you are clarifying/explaining			
22. Do you cough, wheeze, or have difficulty breathing during or after exercise?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		•				
23. Do you have asthma or use asthma medicine (inhaler, nebulizer)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		•				
					List medications and nutritional supplements you are currently taking here:			

→ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____ → Athlete's Signature: _____

PART III- PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

(Pre-participation Physical may not be completed/signed by a parent/guardian even if a licensed healthcare professional)

NAME _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____ SCHOOL _____

Height	Weight	Sex Assigned at Birth
BP /	RR	Resting pulse
Vision	R 20/	L 20/
Corrected	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Pediatric Population > 13 years and older within normal limits = BP (F) 102-121/64-79 mmHg BP (M) 102-124/64-80 mmHg RR 12-20 breaths per minute Pulse 55-90 bpm		
MEDICAL		NORMAL
ABNORMAL FINDINGS		
Appearance (Marfan stigmata: kyphoscoliosis, high-arched palate, pectus excavatum, arachnodactyly, hyperlaxity, myopia, mitral valve prolapse, and aortic insufficiency)		
Eyes/ears/nose/throat (Pupils equal, hearing)		
Neck - Lymph nodes, thyroid enlargement		
Heart (Murmurs: auscultation standing, supine, +/- Valsalva)		
Pulses (radial, femoral, pedal)		
Lungs		
Abdomen		
Skin (Herpes simplex virus, lesions suggestive of MRSA or tinea corporis)		
Neurologic (cranial nerve and gait)		
MUSCULOSKELETAL		NORMAL
ABNORMAL FINDINGS		
Neck		
Back		
Shoulder/arm		
Elbow/forearm		
Wrist/hand/fingers		
Hip/thigh		
Knee		
Leg/ankle		
Foot/toes		
Functional (i.e. Double leg squat, single leg squat, box drop, or step drop test)		
Consider ECG, Echocardiogram, and referral to cardiology if abnormal cardiac history/exam or family history to address Sudden Cardiac Arrest & Sudden Cardiac Death risk. Consider cognitive evaluation or baseline neuropsychiatric testing if history of significant prior to concussion.		
Emergency medications required on-site: <input type="checkbox"/> Inhaler <input type="checkbox"/> Epinephrine <input type="checkbox"/> Glucagon <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
COMMENTS:		

I have reviewed the data above, reviewed the student’s medical history form and make the following commendations for the students’ participation in athletics:

Healthcare Professional completed and reviewed a Mental Health Screening with the athlete.

MEDICALLY ELIGIBLE FOR ALL SPORTS WITHOUT RESTRICTION

MEDICALLY ELIGIBLE FOR ALL SPORTS WITHOUT RESTRICTION WITH RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER EVALUATION OR TREATMENT OF:

MEDICALLY ELIGIBLE ONLY FOR THE FOLLOWING SPORTS: _____
Reason: _____

NOT MEDICALLY ELIGIBLE FOR ANY SPORTS

By this signature, I attest that I have examined the above student and completed this pre-participation physical including a review of Medical History.

→ PRACTITIONER SIGNATURE: _____ (MD, DO, NP or PA) + DATE **: _____

EXAMINER’S NAME AND DEGREE (PRINT): _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Physician Office Stamp:

+Only signature of Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, Nurse Practitioner or Physician’s Assistant licensed to practice in the United States will be accepted.

PART IV- EMERGENCY INFORMATION FORM* (To be completed and signed by the parent/guardian)

Please Print

STUDENT'S NAME: _____ GRADE: _____ AGE: _____ DOB: _____

SPORT(S): _____

Please list any significant health problems that might be significant to a physician evaluating your child **in case of an emergency:**

PLEASE LIST ANY ALLERGIES TO MEDICATIONS, ETC:

IS THE STUDENT CURRENTLY PRESCRIBED AN INHALER? (circle only one) YES NO

IS THE STUDENT CURRENTLY PRESCRIBED AN EPI PEN? (circle one one) YES NO

Primary Contact Name: _____ Relationship to student: _____

DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER (WHERE TO REACH YOU IN AN EMERGENCY): _____

EVENING PHONE NUMBER (WHERE TO REACH YOU IN AN EMERGENCY): _____

CELL PHONE NUMBER: _____

Secondary Contact Name: _____ Relationship to student: _____

DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER (WHERE TO REACH YOU IN AN EMERGENCY): _____

EVENING PHONE NUMBER (WHERE TO REACH YOU IN AN EMERGENCY): _____

CELL PHONE NUMBER: _____

→ I CERTIFY ALL OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS CORRECT: _____

Parent/Guardian signature

Date: _____ PARENT/GUARDAIN NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____

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