



NFHS Statement on Medical Appliances and/or Medical Devices

National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC)

The use of medical appliances and/or medical devices by student-athletes with health conditions has become more commonplace. With the wider use of insulin pumps, as well as other medical devices such as heart monitoring equipment and prosthetics, concerns have been raised regarding the safety of the athlete wearing the device, the safety of teammates and opponents, and the risk of damages to the device itself.

The NFHS SMAC has discussed these issues and come to the following conclusions:

When it is necessary for a student-athlete to wear a medical appliance and/or a medical device (such as an insulin pump, heart monitoring equipment, etc.) during athletic competitions, the device shall be padded and securely attached to the player's body underneath the uniform. Devices attached to the head (such as hearing aids and cochlear implants) do not need to be padded, but shall be firmly secured to the body. Prosthetics may be padded as needed. No medical appliance and/or medical device shall pose any risk of injury or hazard to the student-athlete, teammates and/or opponents. The coach shall notify the official of the presence of the medical appliance and/or medical device prior to each contest. The official has jurisdiction to disallow any medical appliance and/or medical device deemed unsafe for athletic competition. In addition, State Association approval may be required prior to a student-athlete wearing a medical appliance and/or medical device in athletic competition.

Revised and Approved November 2018
April 2016
October 2012
October 2009

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