

2026 FHSAA PPE & ECG Requirements

Family Physician FAQ

What is SB 1070 (“The Second Chance Act”)?

SB 1070 (“The Second Chance Act”) requires that beginning July 1, 2026, first time high school student-athletes undergo an ECG as part of their preparticipation medical clearance associated with high school sports.

“The Second Chance Act” bill was named in honor of **Chance Gainer**, a high school football player in Florida who collapsed and died after a game due to an undiagnosed heart condition. The idea is to give student-athletes a “second chance” at life by preventing sudden cardiac death through early detection.

Who does this apply to?

Applies to student-athletes participating in sports governed by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA). While the law specifically states FHSAA, administrators from the Sunshine State Athletic Association indicate they will follow the same standards but have not yet published any forms.

Who needs an ECG?

An ECG is required for:

- Incoming 9th graders (2026–27 school year)
- Students in grades 10–12 who are first time participants in an FHSAA sport

Students who competed an FHSAA sport during the 2025–26 school year are exempt from the ECG requirement but are encouraged to undergo voluntary screening.

What is an FHSAA-sanctioned sports?

- FHSAA sanctioned sports are interscholastic athletic activities officially approved by the Florida High School Athletic Association that adhere to state-regulated rules, including eligibility, health evaluations, and state championship series, as defined in [FHSAA Policy 7.1](#) and [2025 Florida Statutes 1006.20](#). These sports require schools to follow specific scheduling, safety, and competition guidelines.

Do I have to perform the ECG in my office?

No. You may:

- Perform and interpret the ECG in your clinic
OR
Refer to an external screening provider such as [Who We Play For](#)

What interpretation standard should be used?

Use the current International Criteria for ECG Interpretation in Athletes. [CLICK HERE](#) for a presentation by Dr. Jonathan Drezner (Feb 25, 2026). [SLIDES](#) can be accessed as well.

What if I am not comfortable interpreting athlete ECGs?

You may:

- Refer directly to pediatric cardiology or sports cardiology if abnormal findings are suspected
- Refer for interpretation ([Who We Play For](#) – LINK to resources)

If the ECG is normal, is repeat testing required?

No. If a normal ECG is obtained and documented on [EL1](#), no further ECG testing is required during the remainder of the student athlete's high school playing career. It is important to encourage parents to keep a copy of their child's ECG report, even if normal, throughout their high school career to prevent any need to repeat ECG testing.

What if the ECG is abnormal?

- Complete FHSAA form [EL1/2s](#)
- Refer to pediatric cardiology or refer for interpretation ([Who We Play For](#))
- Clearance is based on specialist evaluation and [EL1/2s](#) (Medical Eligibility Supplemental Form) must be completed

What guidance should be provided to parents regarding the ECG?

- If your clinical practice/office does not provide ECGs, provide a link to Who We Play For so local community screening opportunities can be identified
- Encourage them to keep a copy of the ECG results and/or clearance from a specialist if a referral is required until their student athlete has graduated high school

What does it cost to offer ECGs in my clinic?

- [Who We Play For](#) can provide equipment and support at no cost to qualifying clinics. However, SB1070 caps the reimbursement to \$50 for organizations providing ECGs.

What if there is no screening event or pediatric cardiologist in my area?

- [Who We Play For](#) is expanding coverage statewide and can help connect providers and families to resources.

Can I use my own ECG machine?

- You are able to use your own 12 lead ECG machine. However, traditional ECG machines (typical hospital ECG machines) will not use athlete specific ECG interpretation which will lead to a higher false positive rate. Commercial software options are available that have athlete specific ECG criteria embedded in the interpretation software which will yield a much lower false positive rate (e.g., Cardea 20/20). Using athlete specific ECG criteria is the standard of care and expected way to interpret ECGs as part of this Florida law.

Are there any extra curricular activities that will require PPEs and possibly ECGs (e.g., marching band, ROTC, etc.)?

- The FAFP understands that some school districts require preparticipation evaluations as well as ECGs for extra-curricular activities that are not sanctioned by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSA). This means a school district may extend the requirements beyond state law and manage them locally. Physicians must be mindful of local standards that meet the state minimum and could potentially add additional programs/activities. The FAFP is currently unaware of a comprehensive resource outlining local school district requirements beyond the FHSA, but will post any information it is able to identify in the future.