



Process for Blood

The MSHSL Board of Directors approved the following procedure for an athlete who is bleeding, has an open wound, or has blood on the uniform.

Communicable Disease Precautions

While risk of one athlete infecting another with HIV/AIDS during competition is close to non-existent, there is greater risk that other blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted. For example, hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as in other body fluids. Precautions for reducing the potential for transmission of these infectious agents should include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous-membrane exposure when contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated.
2. Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
3. The official discovers a player who is bleeding, has an open wound, has any amount of blood on his/her uniform, or has blood on his/her person, shall be directed to leave the game/meet until the bleeding is stopped, the wound is covered, the uniform and/or body is appropriately cleaned, and or/the uniform is changed before returning to competition.
4. The bloodied portion of the uniform must be properly disinfected, or the uniform changed before the athlete may participate. To disinfect the uniform, use a solution of 1-100 (for example, 1/4 cup to one gallon water) of sodium hypochlorite (example bleach) or 70% isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol) or other appropriate disinfectant.
5. Clean all blood contaminated surfaces and equipment with a solution made from a 1-10 dilution of household bleach or other disinfectants before competition resumes.
6. Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.
7. Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be available for use.
8. Athletic trainers/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.
9. Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/disinfected.
10. Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling bloody dressings, mouthguards and other articles containing body fluids.

It shall not be the responsibility of the official to provide first aid to an injured athlete or to remove blood from the playing surface.