

## Memo to WIAA swim coaches and officials

***RE: Allergic, respiratory and other medical emergencies at WIAA Dairy Farmers of Washington Les Schwab Tires State Swim and Dive Championship.***

This letter is intended to remind coaches and athletic directors of the steps necessary to maintain a high level of student-athlete safety at the WIAA/GESA Credit Union Swim and Dive Championships.

Allergic, respiratory and other medical emergencies can be potentially life threatening to the athlete and highly distressing to observers including other athletes, families, coaches, officials, lifeguards, and fans. It is important to remember that an incident that is not effectively prevented or controlled may necessitate emergency transport, which could ultimately lead to disqualification from further competition for an athlete.

Although the WIAA staffs each meet with medical personnel, it is important to note that our medical staff do not have the facilities or equipment to make a respiratory or allergy diagnosis nor do they have the medications or other resources required for proper treatment of the condition(s).

In the interest of keeping all participants and spectators, safe and healthy, schools are asked to:

1. Send your school's coach to State Swim and Dive Championships with completed Emergency contact information, which should be readily available with the coach or team trainer.
2. During the coach's meeting, coaches will be asked to notify the meet director of any athlete with a known Allergic, respiratory, or other medical condition for which they take medications or are receiving medical treatment. This will allow the officials and medical staff to be prepared and available if there is a medical issue during an event.
3. All athletes should travel with their prescribed medication and have the medication (i.e., inhaler, epi-pen) available always—including during warm-ups and competition. A coach, athletic trainer, and/or responsible adult with knowledge of the athlete, their diagnosis, and their treatment should be designated and available to provide information in the event of an emergency where the athlete cannot respond. This includes knowing the emergency treatment plan and knowing how to access and use an athlete's prescribed medications.

An athlete may be declared ineligible for further competition if there is a medical incident **and** these safety recommendations have not been met.

If there are any questions about the medical condition, treatment, and/or necessary activity restrictions, the athlete's treating physician should be contacted through the family well in advance of the competition. General questions about the medical services available at the meet can be addressed with the meet director or by contacting the meet physician, Steven Anderson, MD ([sja@uw.edu](mailto:sja@uw.edu)).

Jeff Lowell, Meet Director

Andy Barnes, Assistant Executive Director, WIAA