



NFHS Statement on Medical Appliances

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

The use of medical appliances and 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 safety of the device itself due to potential damage.

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 shall pose any risk of injury or hazard to the student-athlete, teammates and/or opponents. It is recommended that the student-athlete notify the official of the presence of the medical appliance prior to each contest.

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