

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 700

By: Rader

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to school athletics; defining terms; directing the State Department of Education and the State Department of Health to jointly develop and post on certain websites guidelines, policies, procedures, and safety standards regarding exertional heat-related illness; providing for minimum contents of guidelines; directing school district governing bodies to develop certain emergency action plan; allowing school districts to hold informational meetings; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 27-107 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. As used in this section:

1. "Acclimatization period" means a specific period of time to allow for students' bodies to adapt and work towards the elimination of exertional heat-related illnesses and deaths within secondary schools;

1 2. "Exertional heat-related illness" means a serious medical
2 condition that results from the body's inability to cool itself in
3 extremely hot environments. Exertional heat-related illnesses
4 include exertional heatstroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps, heat
5 syncope, heat rash, and muscle breakdown;

6 3. "Athletic trainer" shall have the same meaning as provided
7 for in Section 1-116 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

8 4. "Practice" means the act of school personnel directly or
9 indirectly giving individual or team instruction concerning
10 fundamentals, conditioning activities, and workouts;

11 5. "School district" means a school district or public charter
12 school that offers interscholastic secondary school athletics and
13 activities;

14 6. "Student" means a secondary-school-age individual who is
15 participating in an activity or sport which is individual- or team-
16 based, outside of school or within school, and competitive or in an
17 organized practice; and

18 7. "Wet Bulb Globe Temperature" (WBGT) means a measure of how
19 much heat stress a person is experiencing in direct sunlight, which
20 takes into account atmospheric factors including temperature,
21 humidity, wind speed, sun angle, and cloud cover.

22 B. The State Department of Education and the State Department
23 of Health shall jointly develop and post on their publicly
24 accessible websites guidelines, policies, procedures, and safety

standards for the prevention and management of exertional heat-related illness in students' interscholastic athletics and activities. The guidelines developed pursuant to this section shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Identification of environmental conditions at which a public school district that offers athletics or activities shall limit or prohibit practice and play using the acclimatization period for all athletics and activities with a specific set of guidelines dedicated to football. The guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, teams having eighteen (18) days to complete fourteen practices. The eighteen days start prior to the team's first scrimmage, not including intrasquad scrimmages; and

2. Information regarding the accurate measurement of environmental heat stress at the site of the athletics or activities including the use of Web Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT). WBGT readings shall be taken on the practice site of athletics or activities a minimum of every hour, beginning thirty minutes prior to the beginning of practice. All readings shall be recorded. If a modification or cancellation to athletics or activities is required, documentation using the WBGT Heat Participation Policy Record Chart shall be completed.

C. The governing body of each school district shall develop a venue-specific exertional heat-related illness emergency action plan. Each school district shall include guidelines formulated by

1 the WBGT index to assess environmental conditions and heat stress
2 prevention for students participating in athletics and activities,
3 criteria for the establishment of cooling zones, hydration
4 guidelines, modifications for competitions and scrimmages, and
5 evidence-based practices to treat exertional heat-related illnesses
6 associated with athletics and activities.

7 D. School districts that offer athletics and activities may
8 hold an informational meeting prior to the start of each athletic
9 season for all ages of competitors and their parents and legal
10 guardians regarding the warning signs, symptoms, and treatment of
11 exertional heat-related illness.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2025.

13 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
14 of the public peace, health, or safety, an emergency is hereby
15 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
16 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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