

The University of West Alabama Athletic Department AED Policy

Due to recent events where athletes have died as a result of sudden cardiac death, the University of West Alabama now has two automated external defibrillators (AED's) for use in varsity athletics. The brand of AED's we have are the Zoll AED Plus and the Phillips Heartstart. The technical support for the Zoll unit is through SEMA, Inc. Medical Equipment and Supplies from whom we purchased the device. The technical support for the Heartstart unit is through Lifeguard Medical Solutions from whom we purchased this device

Authorized AED Users:

The AED's are very user friendly and can be used by any staff athletic trainer, first responder, athletic training student, coach, or athletic department administration certified in CPR/AED usage by either the American Red Cross or American Heart which is required on an annual basis for the athletic department coaching staff (see Coaches CPR/AED training policy). EMT or higher certification also meets the criteria for usage (reminder any person who renders emergency care or treatment of a person in cardiac arrest by using an AED activates the emergency medical services system as soon as possible per the guidelines for CPR/AED certification): Annual certification by either the American Red Cross or American Heart Association is required by all athletic department personnel. Documentation of annual certification is maintained by the ATEP program director.

Following is the guidelines for usage by an AED certified staff member. Of note, remember the highest risk group we will deal with is probably the fan in the bleachers. Be prepared for a spectator to go into cardiac arrest and do not hesitate to use our AED on a spectator.

Medical Control:

The medical advisor of the AED program is William R. Simpkins, M.D.

The medical advisor of the AED program is responsible for:

- Writing a prescription for AEDs
- Reviewing and approving guidelines for emergency procedures related to use of AEDs and CPR

Athletic Department Guidelines:

- ❖ When the AED is not in use at an athletic event or practice one AED will be stored in the Head/Assistant Athletic Trainer's Office (JPH 220); the second will be stored in the Pruitt Hall Athletic Training Room (PH 32).
- ❖ The location of other AED's on campus is as follows: Webb Hall, Room 102, and Brock Hall, Room 102.
- ❖ Have the AED on site at each athletic facility or practice venue (currently, due to the fact that we only have two, this is not possible). The Director of Athletic Training & Sports Medicine, Head Athletic Trainer, or the Assistant Athletic Trainers will determine the designation of the AED. The Director of Athletics will also be informed of the venue location of the AED. When selecting the site of the AED, the following must be taken into consideration:
 - Whether the sport is High Risk or Low Risk as denoted by the NCAA (high risk sports should have precedent over low risk sports). At UWA, football, rodeo, and men & women's basketball are the highest risk sports, followed by volleyball, baseball & softball. The lowest risk sports are men & women's cross-country and men & women's tennis.
 - The total number of participants and/or fans at the specific venues

- All home contests will supersede practices, unless EMS is on site. If EMS is on site and activity is going on at another site (football and volleyball concurrently for example), our AED should be at the non-EMS covered site.
- When there are multiple sites the most centralized site should be chosen, all athletic trainers or first responders at the other sites are informed of this and have the ability to contact the site person (by land line or cellular phone) with the AED where it can be easily moved to another site quickly if an emergency arises.
- Remember Title IX; women have an equal right to all athletic medical equipment. When deciding on location, do not locate the AED at the male site always. Use the above criteria for decision-making, not gender.
- ❖ When an emergency arises and the AED is on site, it should be easily attainable from the emergency equipment location at each site.
- ❖ When it is determined by following the primary survey of standard first aid (responsiveness, breathing, circulation) that a cardiac emergency is taking place, the AED should be used only after enacting the EMS system. Another athletic training staff member, coach, athlete, or bystander can perform this action.
- ❖ After EMS is enacted, position supine, open airway, begins rescue breathing, and applies chest compressions in the correct sequence until the AED is in place.
- ❖ Apply the pads to the bare chest of the athlete in the fashion described on the pads or on the cover of the AED.
- ❖ Turn the AED on by pressing the on button
- ❖ Clear everyone from touching the victim to allow the AED to monitor the heart rhythm, Make sure the victim is not lying in water.
- ❖ After rhythm analysis is completed follow instructions of AED to deliver shock, begin CPR, or monitor vitals until EMS arrives (again make sure nobody is touching the victim when shock is to be delivered).

Medical Response Documentation:

Internal Post Event Documentation: It is important to document each use of the medical emergency response system.

- An incident report form shall be completed by the individual responding to any incident requiring use of an AED. The form should be forwarded to the head athletic trainer or supervising staff athletic trainer.
- The report should then be maintained in the student-athletes medical file.
- If the incident occurs to a spectator or is use on a non-athletic patient, a incident should be filed with the ATEP program director and once approved and signed by the department head, should be forwarded to the Coordinator of Environmental Safety.

Equipment Maintenance:

All equipment and accessories necessary for support of medical emergency response shall be maintained in a state of readiness. Specific maintenance requirements include:

- The facility phone operator shall be informed of changes in availability of emergency medical response equipment. If equipment is withdrawn from service, the operator shall be informed and then notified when equipment is returned to service.
- The University of West Alabama AED Policy Program Coordinator of shall be responsible for informing response teams of changes to availability of emergency medical equipment.
- The University of West Alabama AED Policy Program Coordinator shall be responsible for having regular equipment maintenance performed. All maintenance tasks shall be performed according to equipment maintenance procedures as outlined in the operating instructions.
- The University of West Alabama AED Policy program Coordinator shall notify the local emergency communications center or dispatch center of the existing location and type of AED

Following use of emergency response equipment, all equipment shall be cleaned and/or decontaminated as required.

Remember the AED is a fragile device. Care should be used when handling the AED. It should not be dropped, shaken, or stored where it could get wet or exposed to extreme heat. There is also a battery check on the exterior that should be checked periodically. As long as there is not an X in the window the batteries are charged. Replacement batteries are eight (8) Type 123 Lithium batteries.

Athletic Site Determination

Priority for AED usage will be based on the following conditions:

- Competition/Scrimmage has priority over practice.
- Home games have priority over away games.
- Team priority:
 1. Football
 2. Men’s Basketball
 3. Women’s Basketball
 4. Rodeo
 5. Baseball
 6. Softball
 7. Cross Country
 8. Volleyball
 9. Tennis
 10. Cheerleading

Parameters used to determine priority include:

- Sudden cardiac death (SCD) occurs in male athletes more than female athletes.
- SCD occurs in black athletes more than any other race of athletes.
- Men’s basketball has the highest reports of SCD followed closely by football.
- Blunt injuries to the chest can cause ventricular fibrillation.

Monthly System Check:

Once each calendar month, The University of West Alabama AED Policy Program Coordinator or his/her designee shall conduct and document a system check. These records shall be retained in the office of The University of West Alabama AED Policy Program Coordinator. This check shall include review of the following elements:

- Phone operator checklist availability
- AED battery life
- AED operation and status

Approvals:

Medical Director:

Printed Name

Signature

Date

The University of West Alabama AED Policy Program Coordinator:

Printed Name

Signature

Date