



Policy # 58009.1

CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Effective Date: April 30, 2025

Revised Date:

Responsible Office: University Compliance

Division: Athletics and Student Affairs

I. PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure Grambling State University's full compliance with the Jump Start Your Heart Act (Act No. 234 of the 2023 Regular Session), which requires a written document that sets forth specific steps to reduce death from cardiac arrest at an intercollegiate athletic event. [\(LA. R.S. 40:1137.3\)](#) The Cardiac Emergency Response Plan is in furtherance of Policy 58009, Emergency Operations Plan and the Unclassified Personnel Handbook Policy 53008.1.

This policy is intended to ensure compliance with Louisiana Revised Statute 40:1137.3, which mandates the placement and availability of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at all intercollegiate athletic events in Louisiana. The goal is to protect the health and safety of student-athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators by ensuring rapid access to AEDs in the event of a sudden cardiac emergency during athletic events.

Grambling State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctorate degrees. GSU also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of GSU may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org)

This Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) for intercollegiate athletic events should follow best practices recommended by the American Heart Association (AHA), NCAA, and Louisiana law (e.g., LA RS 40:1137.3).

II. STATEMENT OF POLICY

This policy is a focus on preventing the loss of life at Grambling State University through the following guidelines:

1. Compliance with Louisiana Revised Statute 40:1137.3:

- a) In accordance with LA R.S. 40:1137.3, the university shall ensure that AEDs are available at all intercollegiate athletic events and practices held on university property or at off-campus locations where university athletic teams are competing.
- b) The AEDs will be strategically placed at locations within close proximity to playing fields, courts, and other athletic venues, and accessible during all times when intercollegiate athletic events are taking place.

2. AED Availability:

- a) An AED shall be present and clearly marked and unobstructed at all intercollegiate athletic events where there is a risk of sudden cardiac arrest, including both practices and official games.
- b) The AED, along with usage instruction, will be readily accessible within 1 to 3 minutes in all athletic venues and to athletic trainers, coaches, or any medical personnel on-site during the event.
- c) The AED should be checked regularly to ensure it is operational, with fully charged batteries and intact accessories (e.g., electrode pads).

3. Training Requirements:

- a) All athletic staff, including coaches, athletic trainers, and any other personnel involved in intercollegiate athletic events, must be trained in the use of the AED, including how to apply the device in the event of an emergency.
- b) The university will provide annual training on the use of AEDs for staff who may be involved in an emergency response during athletic events.
- c) Emergency medical personnel should also be available at events and trained to use AEDs as part of the university's emergency medical response plans.

4. Maintenance and Testing:

- a) AEDs will be maintained and tested in accordance with manufacturer guidelines by each department where the equipment is located to ensure they are always in working order. This includes:
 - i. Regular battery checks and replacements.
 - ii. Regular electrode pad replacements.
 - iii. Periodic functional testing of the AED device.
- b) The university's athletic department shall designate a responsible staff member to monitor the maintenance and readiness of AED devices. Vice President of Student Affairs shall designate a member of the division to monitor maintenance. Maintenance and Testing reports shall be provided to the Office of Safety & Risk Management at the beginning of each semester as well as University Compliance.
- c) The university will review and update emergency plan annually.

5. Response Protocol:

- a) In the event of a sudden cardiac arrest during an athletic event, the on-site staff, including athletic trainers and emergency responders, will follow the established emergency action plan (EAP) and use the AED as necessary.
 - b) The AED will be used immediately following the recognition of cardiac arrest symptoms, such as no pulse or breathing, and will be applied to the affected individual as soon as possible.
6. Notification and Reporting:
- a) Any use of an AED during an athletic event must be reported to the university's Office of Safety and Risk Management and the athletic department for follow-up and documentation.
 - b) The university will maintain records of all AED usage and review any incidents to assess response effectiveness and improve protocols.
 - c) Emergency procedures may be announced to spectators when appropriate.
7. Signage and Awareness:
- a) Clear signage identifying emergency procedures and AED locations will be posted at all athletic venues used for intercollegiate events.
 - b) Athletes, coaches, and event staff will be made aware of the AED locations at the start of each season and at the beginning of each event.
 - c) Visiting teams/groups will be made aware of the AED locations and emergency protocols.

III. AED REQUIREMENTS

- A) **Emergency Medical Personnel:** For high-risk athletic events, including games or tournaments, the university will ensure that qualified **emergency medical personnel** are on-site to assist with any emergency medical situation.
- B) **Coordination with Local Emergency Services:** The university will establish protocols for coordinating with local **EMS (Emergency Medical Services)** to ensure quick and effective transport if the use of an AED requires additional medical intervention or transport to a hospital.
 - 1. University will ensure that emergency personnel will have campus and venue maps with AED locations.
 - 2. University will have event schedules and contacts available.
 - 3. University will schedule annual walk-throughs and/or drills with first responders

IV. DEFINITIONS

- A) **Physical fitness facility:** a facility for profit or nonprofit with a membership of over fifty persons that offers physical fitness services. This term includes but is not limited to clubs, studios, health spas, weight control centers, clinics, figure salons, tanning centers, athletic or sport clubs, and YWCA and YMCA organizations.

- B) Physical fitness services: services for the development of physical fitness through exercise or weight control.
- C) Automated External Defibrillator (AED): A portable medical device used to diagnose and treat sudden cardiac arrest through the delivery of an electric shock to the heart.
- D) Intercollegiate Athletic Event: Any organized athletic event that is officially sanctioned by the university, under the direction of the Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics including intercollegiate teams, including games, practices, and tournaments.
- E) Campus Recreational Event: Any organized campus recreational event that is officially sanctioned by the university, under the direction of the Vice President of Student Affairs.

V. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all Grambling State University departments, with particular attention to Athletics, Student Affairs, Campus Safety, and Academic Affairs where applicable. It extends to all facilities where intercollegiate athletic activities occur, or where AEDs are required by law. This policy applies to all intercollegiate athletic events organized by the university, including practices, competitions, and any other athletic-related activities involving university-sponsored teams or events.