

## Suspicious Skin Wounds Protocol for Athletes

All athletes and parents need to be aware of the potential for Staph infections and other skin wounds. Contact sports (Ex. Wrestling, Football) have a significantly higher potential of suspicious skin wounds occurring, but are not limited to these athletes. Athletic related skin infections are preventable with good hygiene.

### Prevention:

- Showering with soap immediately following practice is the best way to prevent skin infections.
- Football: The coaching staff will require all players to wash all practice gear weekly. The coaching staff will identify players who have failed to wash their gear and take corrective action.
- Wrestling: All wrestlers are required to shower immediately following practice. Wrestling gear will be washed by the wrestling coaching staff after each practice.
- The football and wrestling coaching staff currently discusses the prevention of Staph and other skin infections regularly.
- Maintenance has Sprint Care perform a deep cleaning of the turf and infill twice each year. The gym, weight room, locker rooms and mat room are thoroughly cleaned nightly.

### Identifying a Suspicious Wound

- Upon identifying a suspicious wound the coach will remove the player from practice or game.
- The player will be sent to see the Athletic Trainer or School Nurse for a preliminary evaluation of the suspicious wound. Coaches will notify the school nurse upon seeing/learning of any suspicious wounds.
- Athletic Trainer or School Nurse will determine if the athlete needs to see a physician.
- Once identified the athlete may not participate
- Once a suspicious wound has been identified the coaching staff will be proactive in looking for other cases on their team.

### Post Identification

- The Athletic Trainer will notify the School Nurse of any player who has been identified with a suspicious wound. The School Nurse will also E-mail the coach or AD.
- The school nurse will make a call home making sure the parent or guardian has been informed.
- The player may not participate without a physician's note, stating the **specific date** in which the player can resume participation.