

Emergency Action Plan

Purpose:

An Emergency Action Plan (EAP) is a plan designed by a coach to assist him or her in responding to emergency situations. The idea behind having such a plan prepared in advance is that it will help the coach, and others, respond in a professional and clearheaded way under stressful circumstances.

An EAP should be prepared for the facility or site where you normally practice and for any facility or site where you regularly host games. For away games, coaches or team managers should ask the host team or host facility for a copy of their EAP.

An EAP can be simple or elaborate, but should cover off the following seven items at a minimum:

- Designate in advance who is in charge in the event of an emergency (this could be the coach, assistant coach, manager or team 'first aider').
- Have a cell phone with you, with battery fully charged. If this is not possible, know exactly where a telephone that you can use is located. Have spare change in the event you need to use a pay phone.
- Have emergency telephone numbers with you (facility manager, fire, police, ambulance, public safety) as well as contact numbers for your participants (parents, guardians, next of kin, family doctor).
- Have on hand a medical profile for each participant, so that this information can be provided to emergency medical personnel. Include in this profile a signed consent from the parent/guardian to allow medical treatment in an emergency.
- Have a First Aid kit accessible and properly stocked at all times. All coaches are strongly encouraged to pursue First Aid training.
- Designate in advance a call person (the person who makes contact with medical authorities and otherwise assists the person in charge).
- Be sure that your call person can give emergency vehicles precise instructions to reach your location or site.