



Devils Youth Suicide Awareness and Intervention Policy

Suicide is a serious public health problem that causes pain, suffering, and can have a profound effect on our entire organization and community. Suicide is one of the top ten causes of death in the United States and the second leading cause of death for individuals aged 10 to 24. In comparison to the national average, New Jersey continues to have a relatively low rate of suicide and research suggests that participation in sports may have a protective effect on young athletes, especially boys. Regardless, suicide remains a priority area to ensure the health and safety of our children. Provided below are resources and information on addressing these events and supportive resources for prevention and intervention.

Should you become aware that a player has attempted or may be considering suicide or intentionally injuring themselves it is imperative that you immediately contact the parents or guardians of the player and provide them with the any information you have about the issue. Be as detailed as possible and share copies all posts, texts, snapchats, etc. you have that are related to the issue. Suggest that the parent(s) may want to reach out to a professional or one of the resources listed below.

Emergency Resources:

- Text HOME to 741741 from anywhere in the United States – free, anonymous, and available 24/7
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/> or [1\(800\) 273-8255](tel:18002738255) – available 24/7
- New Jersey Hopeline, New Jersey's 24/7 Peer Support & Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-855-NJ-Hopeline ([654-6735](tel:6546735))
- 2nd Floor Youth Helpline [1-888-222-2228](tel:18882222228) – available 24/7

Other Resources:

- KidsHealth <https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/suicide.html>
- NJ Children's System of Care <http://www.performcarenj.org/index.aspx> or [1-877-652-7624](tel:18776527624) - 24 hours a day - 7 days a week
- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/suicide-prevention/index.shtml>
- Youth.gov <https://youth.gov/youth-topics/youth-suicide-prevention>
- Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide (SPTS) <http://www.sptsusa.org/parents/>