

# Youth Sports AED Placement Guide

Outdoor at Sports Complex or Park  
(mounted on a wall)



AED placement is crucial to the chain of survival in a cardiac emergency. Consider reaching out to your local EMS, Fire Department and/or Project ADAM affiliate if you'd like help.

The American Heart Association (AHA) recommends the AED should be **retrieved and placed on the victim within three minutes** of a suspected cardiac arrest. Therefore, it is extremely important the AED is placed in a central location for quick and easy access in an emergency.

*All should be circled "YES" to effectively place the AED.*

<b>IS THERE A PERMANENT STRUCTURE FOR AN AED CABINET TO BE MOUNTED?</b> <i>ie: concession stand wall, bathroom wall, club house</i> <i>If not, consider portable AED-refer to Youth Sports AED Placement Guide Portable (on sideline, in dugout, etc.)</i>	YES	NO
<b>ARE VISITORS ABLE TO ACCESS THE AED AT ALL TIMES?</b>	YES	NO
<b>DO ALL COACHES, STAFF, PARENTS, ATHLETES AND VOLUNTEERS KNOW WHERE THE AED IS LOCATED?</b>	YES	NO
<b>IS THE AED IN A HIGHLY VISIBLE LOCATION?</b>	YES	NO
<b>IS THERE CLEAR SIGNAGE IDENTIFYING THE AED LOCATION?</b> <i>Consider signage on site that directs to AED location.</i>	YES	NO
<b>IS THE AED RETRIEVABLE ANYWHERE ONSITE WITHIN THREE MINUTES (BRISK WALKING)?</b> <i>If you are beginning with one AED, it is best to place it where the most traffic occurs. (for example: near restrooms, outside concession stand, central fields)</i> <i>From there, additional AEDs may be placed as needed in other areas of the building.</i>	YES	NO
<b>THERE ARE NO BARRIERS PREVENTING ACCESS TO THE AED.</b> <i>ie: doors or gates, physical items-tables, trash cans. The AED should never be locked away.</i>	YES	NO
<b>IS THE AED PLACED AT AN UNOBSTRUCTED HEIGHT NO MORE THAN 48" FROM THE FLOOR?</b> <i>In compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.</i>	YES	NO
<b>THE AED CABINET PROTRUDES NO MORE THAN 4" INTO THE CORRIDOR, PASSAGEWAY OR AISLE.</b> <i>In compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.</i>	YES	NO
<b>IS THE ALARM IN YOUR AED CABINET ACTIVATED?</b> <i>The cabinet alarm lets others know the cabinet has been opened and the AED has been retrieved.</i>	YES	NO
<b>IS THE AED IN AN "ALL WEATHER" CABINET?</b> <i>Check with your vendor or manufacturer as extreme temperatures can affect device functionality.</i>	YES	NO

# AED Best Practices and Considerations:

- An AED should be placed in a central location where it can be retrieved and applied to a victim experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest within 3 minutes from collapse.
- An AED should be accessible to everybody and never in a locked room, cabinet or drawer.
- At the bare minimum, all groups need to know the location of an AED.
- There should be signage near the AED as well as throughout the area to direct people to its location.
- If the AED is inside the concession stand or in a room, it must always be accessible. Consider keys, badge access, key fobs or door passcodes to ensure the ability to enter the building or room at all times.
- When placing an AED outside, an “all weather” cabinet may be considered. Check with your vendor or AED manufacturer as extreme temperatures can affect the AED functionality.
- If the AED needs to be removed during certain weather (ie: extreme cold or heat) ensure that the box is covered and a sign is placed stating the AED is in a different location at this time.
- For seasonal sports, consider partnering with another season’s sports team to share the AED.
- A common misconception is that public AEDs are subject to vandalism or theft. Surveys have shown that this is rare, <2%. The benefit of having a public AED significantly outweighs the rare chance of this misconception.
- Alarmed cabinets can deter people from taking the AED in a non-emergency. While the alarm does not call first responders, people often believe it does and will close the cabinet if it’s not needed. Make sure your cabinet has an active battery.
- Education is important. To prevent theft, consider placing a sign on or near the cabinet briefly explaining that this is a lifesaving device and its accessibility is crucial during a cardiac emergency, and if the cabinet is found empty, to report it to the local police or your program.
- There are special locked AED cabinets that are connected to local EMS that require the retriever to call 911 to access a code to unlock the AED. Talk to your AED vendor to consider if these cabinets are needed for your location and if your EMS agency can support this request.