Introduction: Sudden cardiac death (SCD) in young competitive athletes is a rare event. The main causes of SCD are cardiovascular diseases (55-85%) occurring in about 80% during exercise. According to the literature about 90% may be detected by preparticipation screening including ECG. At the moment preparticipation screening in Europe is not standardized and ECG is not included in the most parts of Europe. Although we did an accurate literature search we could not collect data of the actual practiced preparticipation screening guidelines in most European countries. The aim of this study was to do an online survey contacting pediatric cardiologists all over Europe to evaluate the actual standard of preparticipation screening.

Methods: An online survey including six questions was send to pediatric cardiologist and was then analyzed.

Results: Preparticipation screening in European countries is different. There is no standard what examinations are included in the preparticipation screening in each country and who is performing the examination. In most countries preparticipation screening is not obligatory or it depends on the national sports organizations if it is required to participate in competitive sport events.

Conclusion: There is no standard in preparticipation screening in Europe, although the Italian model—preparticipation screening including ECG in every competitive athlete—showed a dramatic reduction of SCD. According to the literature we strongly recommend standardized guidelines for preparticipation screening including an ECG.