



# The American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine

*A world leader in sports medicine education, research, communication, and fellowship.*

6300 N. River Road  
Suite 500  
Rosemont, IL 60018  
P: 847/292-4900  
F: 847/292-4905  
aossm@aossm.org  
www.sportsmed.org

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Marje Albohm, MS, ATC  
President  
National Athletic Trainers' Association  
2952 Stemmons Freeway, #200  
Dallas, TX 75247

Dear Marje,

The leadership of the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM) was happy to hear of the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) plan for a summit devoted to the topic of youth sports safety, as we too have taken notice of the alarming increase of youth sports injuries and have implemented an action plan to bring awareness to the public.

Our research regarding youth sports injuries revealed some disturbing statistics. For instance, in a recent CDC report, more than 3.5 million children under the age of 14 receive medical treatment for sports injuries in a year. According to the Safe Kids USA Campaign, thirty percent of parents reported their child had been injured while playing a sport and half of them reported their child had been injured more than once. Sixty-two percent of organized-sports related injuries occur during practices, yet many parents underestimate their child's risk for injury and do not take the same safety precautions during their child's practices as they would for a game.

This information, coupled with the fact that participation in organized sports and youth specialization in a particular sport or position are on the rise, became the catalyst for the AOSSM-lead initiative STOP Sports Injuries campaign. Our intention is to bring public awareness to these alarming statistics, to provide parents, athletes, and coaches with simple injury prevention tips, and to develop general and sport specific educational materials on overuse and trauma injuries for our members and other health care professionals to use to inform their communities.

Since the creation of a steering committee for the STOP Sports Injuries campaign in 2008, we have seen quite a bit of excitement and support from the health and sport communities regarding the campaign. We have also seen other societies raise concern regarding youth sports safety, such as the NATA. AOSSM applauds the NATA for organizing the summit, and we commit to supporting the initiative to address the youth sports safety crisis in the United States.

We wish NATA success in bringing awareness to the youth sports safety crisis through the summit. We urge all legislative, community and sports leaders to join us in supporting the NATA's call for youth sports safety.

Sincerely,

James R. Andrews, MD  
President