

Dr. Thomas A. Wallis
Superintendent



Harry Francis
Director of Athletics

September 26, 2013

Ellen Satlof
National Athletic Trainers' Association
2952 Stemmons Freeway
Dallas, Texas

Dear Ms. Satlof:

Bryan ISD is proud to promote and join the Youth Sports Safety Alliance in their effort to address safety in youth sports. Bryan ISD employs four full-time athletic trainers who are available to the 2,800 athletes, grades 7-12. The full-time athletic trainers work primarily at the two high school campuses, Travis B. Bryan High School and James Earl Rudder High School. Both high schools have been awarded the national recognition of Safe Sports School - 1st Team. Contract athletic trainers are utilized for junior high football games.

Bryan ISD has an established Athletic Health Care Team (AHCT) with the expressed purpose of improving communication between school medical personnel, school administrators, emergency responders, and physicians. The BISD AHCT works to ensure safety, stability and the overall promotion of health; to properly develop and implement a comprehensive athletic health care administrative plan; to develop and adopt clear policies to ensure all on-site athletic staff adhere to safe clinical practice parameters for adequate medical care; and to ensure appropriate and seamless transfer of emergency care between entities. Bryan ISD is committed to athlete safety and will remain "ahead of the curve" by working along with the alliance to continue being advocates for youth safety in sports. Bryan ISD commits to the call to action by the Youth Sports Safety Alliance and will:

- Ensure that youth athletes have access to health care professionals who are qualified to make assessments and decisions.
- Educate parents, athletes, coaches, teachers and others about the signs and symptoms of sports injuries and conditions (e.g., brain injury, heat illness and exertional sickling).
- Assure pre-participation exams before play begins and, where appropriate, conduct baseline testing.
- Ensure that sports equipment, uniforms, playing surfaces and environmental conditions are checked for safety and best conditions. Write to state legislators and members of Congress, expressing concerns.
- Insist that research into youth sports injuries and their effects be undertaken immediately and be supported by tax dollars.
- Support a national registry of sport-related catastrophic injuries and fatalities to improve safety and participation.
- Demand that appropriate emergency action plans and safety and medical protocols and procedures are in place at every sporting event and facility.
- Educate players and others that there is a difference between pain and injury; and work to eliminate the culture of "playing through pain" without assessment.
- Ensure that both general and sport-specific safety education be a priority for every administrator, coach, parent and player.

Bryan ISD would like to thank the NATA for the call to action and we are proud to join the many organizations that have pledged to answer that call. Should you require any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Francis
Athletic Director
Bryan Independent School District