



November 2014

Youth Sports Safety Alliance:

I am writing to you on behalf of The Jake Lord Play It Safe Foundation, to express our support of the Youth Sports Safety Alliance Call to Action.

#### **CALL TO ACTION**

- 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's 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.

The JLPISF looks forward to working with the YSSA, so please accept our support and our membership request. We would like to work with you to improve the health and safety of youth athletes and to minimize catastrophic and fatal injuries.

Sincerely,

Jenna Lord

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**The Jake Lord Play It Safe Foundation**

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