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# NATIONAL BASKETBALL ATHLETIC TRAINERS ASSOCIATION®

December 11, 2009

Ms. Marjorie Albohm  
President  
National Athletic Trainers Association  
2952 Stemmons Freeway, Suite 200  
Dallas, TX 75247

Dear Marje,

On behalf of the National Basketball Athletic Trainers Association, I would like to congratulate you and the entire NATA on organizing the Alliance for Youth Sports Safety Crisis in America. The knowledge of athletic trainers working with elite professional athletes can be conveyed to athletes at the youth sports level to keep them in the game.

Highly motivated athletes may want to continue participating with an injury which requires rest. The concept of "playing through pain" is one that clinicians teach their athletes to shun. Athletic training research has given us science based information about preventing injuries from hydration, lightning, and head injuries among many others. This research is applicable to both to youth sports athletes and elite athletes.

Often times the youngest fans try to emulate our professional players by playing through injuries to their own detriment. Our profession's intervention through educating parents, coaches, and teachers will help kids stay healthy and enhance their athletic experiences.

For the sake of participants of youth sports programs, we wish success with the Youth Sports Safety Alliance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wally Blasé". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Wally Blasé  
Chairman, National Basketball Athletic Trainers  
Association