



**NATIONAL CENTER FOR CATASTROPHIC  
SPORTS INJURY RESEARCH**

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To Whom It May Concern:

As Director of the National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research I am writing to support the National Athletic Trainers' Association's Alliance to Address the Youth Sports Safety Crisis in America. There is no doubt that the youth of America are being injured during their athletic experiences at an all time high rate, and that many of these injuries result in either death or a catastrophic injury with permanent disability. One example is that since 1995 there have been 32 high school and middle school football players die from heat stroke. All of the medical literature states that heat stroke fatalities are preventable, but young athletes continue to die. Additional examples of safety problems in youth sport are as follows:

1. From 1979 to 2008 there have been 34 deaths and 51 injuries from movable soccer goals falling over that have not been anchored properly.
2. Cheerleaders have been associated with two deaths, 25 disability injuries, and 46 serious injuries with recovery.
3. From 1982 through 2008 high school sports were associated with 152 fatalities, 379 disability injuries, and 374 serious head and neck injuries with recovery (fractured cervical vertebrae, serious concussion, etc.).
4. In addition to the above there have been 458 deaths in high school sports related to sudden death, asthma attacks, etc.

It is time that youth sport safety is given a top priority in the United States.

Sincerely,

Frederick O. Mueller, Ph.D., FACSM  
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