



12/12/09

National Athletic Trainers Association
2952 Stemmons Freeway
Suite 200
Dallas, TX 75247

Dear NATA,

As the president of the Professional Baseball Athletic Trainers Society, I am writing in support of the Alliance to Address the Youth Sports Safety Crisis in America. There is no question that we want our youth in this country to be more active in sports and fitness. We at PBATS have as one of our hallmark programs the P.L.A.Y. campaign, Providing a Lifetime of Activity for Youth. This program is geared to combating childhood obesity. However, as athletic trainers we realize that with increased participation in sports and fitness we realize there comes an increased risk for injury.

It is important to do a couple of things in response to this. We need to educate parents, coaches and children on how to be aware, "listen" to their bodies and how to prevent against injuries. We also need to make sure that as much as possible that a qualified healthcare professional such as a certified athletic trainer is available and on-site at events to take care of injuries.

As one example, with all the attention being paid to concussions these days, it is imperative that a health care professional be available to make return to play decisions. This healthcare professional can also make determinations as to when an injury needs to be seen by a physician for further evaluation.

As we hear many times, our youth is our future. We need to do everything within our power to protect that future. Encourage to be fit, participate in play time events, participate in sports at all levels but also guard against injuries. With that thought in mind PBATS fully supports the efforts of The Alliance to Address the Youth Sports Safety Crisis in America

Sincerely,

Richie Bancells MS ATC
PBATS President
Head Athletic Trainer
Baltimore Orioles

1201 Peachtree Street
Suite 1750
Atlanta, Georgia 30361
Telephone (404) 892-8919
Facsimile (404) 892-8560
www.pbats.com

Richie Bancells, M.S., A.T.C.
President
Baltimore Orioles
333 W. Camden Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
(410) 683-9999

Jeff Porter, M.A., A.T.C.
Treasurer
Atlanta Braves
P.O. Box 4064
Atlanta, GA 30302
(404) 522-7630

Mark D'Neal, A.T.C.
Secretary
Chicago Cubs
Wrigley Field
1060 W. Addison Street
Chicago, IL 60613
(312) 404-2827

Roger Caplinger, M.Ed., A.T.C.
National League Head
Athletic Trainer Representative
Milwaukee Brewers
Miller Park
One Brewers Way
Milwaukee, WI 53214
(414) 902-4542

Kevin Rand, A.T.C.
American League Head
Athletic Trainer Representative
Detroit Tigers
Comerica Park
2100 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201
(313) 471-2462

Rex Jones, M.S., A.T.C.
National League Assistant
Athletic Trainer Representative
Houston Astros
Minute Maid Park
P.O. Box 288
Houston, TX 77001
(713) 259-8000

Steve Carter, A.T.C.
American League Assistant
Athletic Trainer Representative
Detroit Tigers
Comerica Park
2100 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201
(313) 963-4000

Jennie Reed, A.T.C.
Dewberry First President
Texas Rangers
P.O. Box 90111
1000 Ballpark Way
Arlington, TX 76011
(817) 273-5222