

Taylor Hooton Foundation

Fighting the Abuse of Appearance and Performance Enhancing Drugs

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The Taylor Hooton Foundation (THF) is a 501c3 non-profit organization that is committed to educating our young people and their adult influencers about the dangers of Appearance and Performance Enhancing Drugs (APEDs). About a million of our children have played with these drugs and most are completely unaware of the dangers of using these drugs to improve their performance on and off the athletic field. Yet fewer than 15% of our nation's children have ever had a parent, coach or teacher speak with them about the dangers of these drugs. THF's mission is to change that!

The pressure to win at all costs on the athletic field is driving our young people to extraordinary lengths to make it onto their respective teams and to make the starting lineup. Our organization is seeing the result of this insatiable desire to win show itself in the form of taking APEDs to help them get a short cut to help them achieve their objectives. Too many kids today push themselves too far in their attempt to succeed, and they put themselves at serious physical and emotional risk when they do so.

The result of this extraordinary desire to win shows itself in many ways: a high number of sports-related injuries, brain trauma resulting from concussions, even deaths resulting from sports activities, and more.

A fundamental step to attacking this problem is education. But, not only do we need to educate our youth, we need to educate coaches, physicians, parents and others to add a dose of good judgment to our dealings with kids as we encourage them to participate in athletic activities. To that end, we are proud to be partnered with the National Athletic Trainers Association in an effort to make sure those who supervise our children at all levels are cognizant of their responsibility to always place the health and safety of our children above the desire to win. And, to insure that they are all trained and equipped to recognize the signs of injury and APEDs abuse to the extent that they know what steps they need to take to deal properly with the problems when they arise. To supplement classroom training, we are developing online training and certification courses to insure that these training materials are available nationally.

Thank you for this opportunity to collaborate with the National Athletic Trainers' Association in this important endeavor to protect America's youth.