



UCSF PLAYSAFE SPORTS MEDICINE

October 27, 2014

Ellen Satlof
National Athletic Trainers' Association
Youth Sports Safety Alliance
1620 Valwood Parkway, Ste. 115
Carrollton, TX 75006

Dear Ms. Satlof,

On behalf of the University of California, San Francisco's Outreach PlaySafe Sports Medicine Program we are happy to accept your invitation to join the NATA and other leading health care and sports organizations to support the Youth Sports Safety Alliance. We share your vision of improving sport safety and awareness to prevent catastrophic injuries and death in young athletes.

Our PlaySafe group actively promotes the initiatives put forth in your Call to Action. This community outreach program began in 2002 with only one team physician and one dual credentialed AT-PT servicing one San Francisco high school. The program now includes 11 athletic trainers servicing over 20 high schools in San Francisco and Marin Counties. The orthopaedic surgeons and sports medicine physicians from UCSF serve as team doctors for the schools within PlaySafe. Together we commit to:

1. Ensure that youth athletes have access to health care professionals who are qualified to make assessments and decisions.
2. 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).
3. Assure pre-participation exams before play begins and, where appropriate, conduct baseline testing.
4. 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.
5. Insist that research into youth sports injuries and their effects be undertaken immediately and be supported by tax dollars.
6. Support a national registry of sport-related catastrophic injuries and fatalities to improve safety and participation.
7. Demand that appropriate emergency action plans and safety and medical protocols and procedures are in place at every sporting event and facility.
8. 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.
9. Ensure that both general and sport-specific safety education be a priority for every administrator, coach, parent and player.

Thank you for your consideration of UCSF's PlaySafe Program and we are honored to be an active participant in the Youth Sports Safety Alliance.

Sincerely,

Anthony Luke, MD, MPH
Director, UCSF Primary Care Sports Medicine
UCSF PlaySafe Program Founder and Director

Jason Miyamoto, MS, ATC
Manager, Athletic Training Services
UCSF PlaySafe Program Coordinator

UCSF Medical Center
Sports Medicine