



Department of Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine

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January 30, 2013

To Youth Sports Safety Alliance:

We are writing in full support of the Youth Sports Safety Alliance's Call to Action! The University of South Florida's Post-Professional Graduate Athletic Training Program and Sports Medicine & Athletic Related Trauma (SMART) Institute support the efforts by the National Athletic Trainers' Association and the YSSA to increase awareness and education regarding youth sport injury and the prevention of sudden death in youth sports.

With an emphasis on youth sports injury, our Post-Professional Graduate Athletic Training Program's curriculum promotes youth sport safety through education, with a focus on the prevention of youth sport injury, preventing sudden death in youth sports, and the creation and implementation of injury prevention programs in youth sport and high school settings. USF has also created a website, "Educational Initiative on Sickle Cell Trait for the Athletic Population," to help educate coaches, parents, athletes, and healthcare professionals on the prevention of exertional sickling in athletes that are sickle cell trait positive.

USF Health's SMART Institute is a comprehensive sports safety program that utilizes a multidisciplinary approach of education, research, and injury care and prevention thereby elevating the standard of care for the youth, recreational, high school, collegiate and professional athlete. SMART provides athletic training coverage at local high school athletic events, tournaments, and other youth sporting events. It also provides community education on youth sports injury and CPR training for youth sport coaches.

Together, USF's Post-Professional Graduate Athletic Training Program and the SMART Institute would like to thank the YSSA and the other organizations committed to the prevention of catastrophic injury and death in young athletes. We will continue our efforts in education and awareness in the prevention of youth sports injury.

Sincerely,

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