



Carl Peterson
Chairman

Scott Hallenbeck
Executive Director

December 14, 2009

USA Football is proud to support the National Athletic Trainers' Association in promoting the well-being of America's young athletes.

With members in all 50 states who personify the fabric of youth football – volunteer coaches, league commissioners, players, and game officials – USA Football is committed to further strengthen the sport's grassroots community. By educating the game's youth volunteers about injury prevention, proper hydration, concussion awareness, and other topics, USA Football's initiatives run parallel to NATA's mission of athlete health.

USA Football recently assembled a Football & Wellness Committee to share insight and knowledge with the youth football community which features 3.0 million youngsters aged 6-14. Securing a standout athletic trainer for this committee was among our earliest priorities and we did that when our committee invitation was accepted by Ron Courson, ATC, PT, NREMT-I, CSCS, head athletic trainer at the University of Georgia. Ron's relationship with USA Football dates back more than a year and we look forward to his contributions as our authority in this critical area.

We join NATA and all organizations in this book that are part of an attitudinal sea change in youth sports toward injuries. Particularly pertaining to concussion, injuries are being taken more seriously and approached with greater caution, but there is more to be done.

More than 26,000 youth football coaches across the United States have successfully completed USA Football's online certified coaching program since its inception in May 2008. With the knowledge and support of NATA, the CDC, and our Football & Wellness Committee, new material regarding player health and safety will be added to our coaching education course by April 2010. This material will emphasize CDC-approved concussion awareness, recognition, and action steps; player hydration; and proper equipment fitting to reduce the chance of injury.

No physical activity undertaken by our kids is injury-proof, but this Alliance directed by NATA and supported by leading sports organizations and legislators will improve the quality of youth sports for our children and their families.

Fitness, values and life-lessons gained through youth sports positively impact our youngsters throughout their lives. USA Football supports and shares in NATA's commitment to youth sports safety and I encourage all youth sports stakeholders to join us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Hallenbeck".

Scott Hallenbeck
Executive Director