



# Athletic Testing Solutions



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Ellen Satlof  
National Athletic Trainers' Association  
2952 Stemmons Freeway  
Dallas, Texas, 75247

Dear Ms. Satlof:

Athletic Testing Solutions (ATS) is pleased to join the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) in the Alliance to Address the Youth Sports Safety Crisis in America.

There are an increasing number of young athletes active in organized sports programs in the United States. Current estimates are >50 million recreational athletes, 4 million high school athletes, and over 500,000 collegiate athletes in the US. Yet there are still only 6% of our teens receiving proper cardiac screening through preparticipation physicals according to the American Heart Association's Scientific Session 2011.

ATS is comprised of medical professionals whose goal is to provide high quality clinical screenings for Sudden Cardiac Arrest through our core of cardiologists, sonographers, and medical professionals, applying the latest proven procedures and protocols. Our medical staff has a focused interest in sports medicine with specialized training in the athletic heart function and diagnosis. As an organization, we focus on preventative care and our medical staff is ideally suited to provide comprehensive cardiac diagnostics for young athletes.

We feel it an important aspect of future health and well being children stay active each day to fight off future health problems. Yet physical activity is not without risk, and as the numbers of children participating in sports increase, so has the number of sports-related injuries. Sports are the leading cause of injury and hospital emergency room visits in adolescents. Almost ½ of non-fatal injuries seen in the emergency department in children ages 5-17 were sports related. While injuries to muscles and bones remain prevalent and can lead to life-long disability, cardiac arrest is still the leading cause of athletic deaths suffered by children.

ATS consistently takes our role in the prevention and recognition of injuries and illnesses in young athletes seriously. Cardiac arrest prevention starts with a solid, written action plan including education of sudden cardiac arrest, CPR training, AED use, and emergency planning. We help develop guidelines for parents, coaches, and athletes, and provide opportunities for education and early recognition of heart related diseases. We need to ensure high quality coaching and adult leadership, and timely access to qualified medical care for our youth. And lastly, we need to support legislative change, to make certain that these above issues take place.

ATS has been and remains firmly committed to youth sports safety, and we welcome the opportunity to contribute to this important endeavor. We look forward to working together with you and respectfully request consideration for membership in the NATA Youth Sports Alliance. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Eric L. Schroeder  
Vice President, Operations

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