



EL PASO ALLIANCE  
FOR SPORTS SAFETY

January 17, 2014

My name is Michael Gutierrez, a certified athletic trainer in El Paso, Texas and President of the El Paso Alliance for Sports Safety. I am writing this letter to express the support and commitment of our organization towards the efforts and commitments of the Youth Sports Safety Alliance.

The El Paso Alliance for Sports Safety was established to work with local entities to raise the level of care for athletes in El Paso. Our primary goal is to raise funds to provide neurocognitive baseline testing for all student-athletes in El Paso County. We also hope to offer guidelines for athletic trainers and physicians to use when evaluating and managing concussions. Through this effort, we hope to streamline the process and regularize the referral, care and follow-up treatment our athletes receive. As we progress with our goals, we also aim to provide education and awareness training to not only school district personnel, but to city league coaches and parents so that we can raise awareness and provide the latest, evolving information regarding the serious nature of brain injury.

We believe that our efforts will result in improved pre and post-injury care for the children of El Paso. The border region is often behind the curve when it comes to health care and awareness regarding health conditions. The El Paso Alliance for Sports Safety aims to begin to change that with regards to our active student population. Our educational agenda hopes to help change the culture of school-aged athletes and their parents and coaches so that they begin to understand fully the risks and ramifications associated with concussions.

As we continue to establish ourselves, our goal is to expand beyond concussion and traumatic brain injury and include all aspects of sports safety in our efforts. With a board of directors that includes orthopaedic surgeons and Sports Medicine qualified physicians already serving many of our student athletes, we hope to be able to impact the population we serve in many different ways. Our work is also contributing to research being done at the University of Texas at El Paso through their Concussion Management Clinic, run by another of our board members.

The El Paso Alliance for Sports Safety recognizes the work already done by the Youth Sports Safety Alliance. We hope, as we grow and expand our resources, to join more practically in your efforts. The goals and commitments we have in common are extremely important and the vision we share towards keeping our young athletes safe is critical to that population...the youth of this nation. We look forward to joining the alliance and are ready and eager to help. Thank you very much.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Gutierrez', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Gutierrez, MS, ATC  
President  
El Paso Alliance for Sports Safety