

To Whom It May Concern:

St. Vincent Sports Performance is part of Ascension Health, the largest Catholic healthcare system in America, with over 100,000 associates in 20 states. That association reminds us that our service isn't just about sports performance and medicine, but also about caring, communication and compassion.

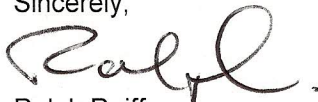
When St. Vincent Sports Performance first emerged in 1987, we started with a small group of physicians and Certified Athletic Trainers. By listening to our clientele, and assessing the deficiencies in traditional sports medicine programs, we defined the industry of sports performance by combining performance training, medicine, psychology and nutrition; creating a comprehensive service continuum. We now serve over 19,000 athletes and families, annually, through the aforementioned services, bringing an extraordinary level of service to amateur, elite, and professional athletes.

To us, clients aren't just numbers. They're people with unique needs. That's why our core values – service, creativity, reverence, integrity, dedication and wisdom – are so important. While we value statistics and data, we value people above all else.

It is because of these beliefs and our mission that St. Vincent Sports Performance is proud to fully support the Youth Sports Safety Alliance's commitments to:

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

Sincerely,



Ralph Reiff
Executive Director