



May 6, 2013

Jim Thornton, MS, ATC, CES
President
National Athletic Trainers' Association
2952 Stemmons Freeway
Dallas, TX 75247

Dear President Thornton,

The Washington Health System, in conjunction with our team of Sports Medicine experts, including physicians, athletic trainers, physical therapists, exercise physiologists and other essential staff, welcomes the opportunity to join other nationally ranked and leading healthcare systems and organizations to enthusiastically support and commend the National Athletic Trainers' Association for their commitment towards addressing the Youth Sports Safety Crisis in America. As the regional healthcare system of choice for patients, physicians and employees in the Washington and surrounding counties of Southwest Pennsylvania, we strive to achieve great patient care for the young athletes we serve as we join the Youth Sports Safety Alliance to promote the Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights throughout our communities.

Our Sports Medicine program strives to achieve a high standard of care and excellence for our athletic and community programs. We pride ourselves on the three (3) pillars of success: Excellence, Education, and Ethics.

- **Excellence:** The needs of the student-athlete will always be the first consideration for all members of our staff. Through easy access to sports medicine services; quick and safe return to play decisions, and reduction of risk for athletic injury for student-athletes, we expect our Sports Medicine team of athletic trainers to maintain the highest standards of quality consistent with the National Athletic Trainers Association Code of Professional Practice and the Licensing Statutes of the state of Pennsylvania.
- **Education:** We view each interaction as an opportunity to educate. To optimize excellent healthcare, effective education encourages student-athletes, families, coaches, and administrators to understand their rights and responsibilities in the care, treatment, and services of neurological and musculoskeletal injuries. Our community education programs address proper nutrition, effective sports performance training, injury prevention strategies, concussion management, sports medicine procedures and evaluations, and best practices in psychological sports training.
- **Ethics:** Our team of sports medicine experts is dedicated to providing competent medical care with compassion and respect for human dignity and rights. We value the Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights and hope that the provisions outlined in that document serve as the minimal standard of ethical criteria for all student athletes in our communities.

The Washington Health System welcomes the opportunity to partner with the Youth Sports Safety Alliance to promote and support programming and legislation for youth athletes. We look forward to advancing our collective missions and values to ensure all student athletes remain safe and have the minimal level of quality healthcare.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gary B. Weinstein'.

Gary B. Weinstein
President and CEO

www.whs.org

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