



NATA Official Statement on Providing Quality Health Care and Safeguards to Athletes of All Ages and Levels of Participation

As performance expectations continue to rise for athletes of all ages and levels of participation, a parallel need arises for high quality and specialized health care that provides preventative programs, immediate and emergency care, rehabilitation, and return to function programs designed to ensure that athletes lead full and productive lives during and long after their athletic careers. The National Athletic Trainers' Association is devoted to the health and safety of athletes and other active individuals.

In an effort to safeguard athletes in organized sports and minimize injuries at both practices and competitions, the NATA recognizes that athletes of all ages and levels of participation should have equitable access to the health care services delivered by a highly qualified, licensed or otherwise regulated, academically qualified professional athletic trainer. NATA believes that the minimum standard of health care for athletes should include employing an athletic trainer who is directed by a physician, having emergency action plans, and establishing safety and medical protocols and procedures at every public and private sports venue and for every sporting event.