



NATIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION ISSUES OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON 'FRIDAY NIGHT TYKES'

Football is one of the nation's most popular sports and a rite of passage for millions of young players, helping them grow physically, socially and mentally. As the founder of the Youth Sports Safety Alliance, the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) is concerned and disappointed that the Esquire Network is providing a platform for the blatant disregard for player safety displayed in its new program "Friday Night Tykes."

When youth leagues do not have proper medical personnel such as an athletic trainer available at practices or games, it is incumbent that responsible adults assure the safety of these young athletes. There is no shortage of valuable information available; the NATA has guidelines on topics such as hydration, heat acclimatization, concussion and head down contact in football. The association also endorses USA Football's Heads Up program as a top resource for parents and coaches to ensure our youngest athletes remain on the field, enjoying competition at its best.

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