



April 11, 2016

Scott Sailor, EdD, ATC
President, National Athletic Trainers' Association
1620 Valwood Parkway, Suite 115
Carrollton, TX 75006

Dear Scott,

The American Medical Society for Sports Medicine is pleased to offer a letter of support for Athletic Trainers in secondary schools.

AMSSM has long recognized the value and role of athletic trainers within a Sports Medicine care team. Athletic trainers undergo accredited undergraduate and/or graduate training programs, with 70% of all athletic trainers obtaining a master's degree. Athletic trainers play an essential role as the front line healthcare professional for a well-functioning, multi-disciplinary Sports Medicine care team. Athletic trainers interact on a daily basis with the athletes for whom they are caring, are well trained in acute injury and illness evaluation and management, facilitate care from other clinicians when needed, and work closely with team physicians to provide comprehensive care for athletes. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine an optimal Sports Medicine care team functioning without the involvement of athletic trainers.

The AMSSM encourages the placement of athletic trainers in every secondary school that offers an athletics program. Athletic trainers work with physicians to provide needed prevention, clinical evaluation and diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, immediate and emergency care for young athletes who sustain injuries or concussions.

Sincerely,

Jon Divine, MD, MS
AMSSM President

About AMSSM: American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM) is a multi-disciplinary organization of 3,000 sports medicine physicians dedicated to education, research, advocacy and the care of athletes of all ages. The majority of AMSSM members are primary care physicians with fellowship training and added qualification in sports medicine who then combine their practice of sports medicine with their primary specialty. AMSSM includes members who specialize solely in non-surgical sports medicine and serve as team physicians at the youth level, NCAA, NFL, MLB, NBA, WNBA, MLS and NHL, as well as with Olympic teams. By nature of their training and experience, sports medicine physicians are ideally suited to provide comprehensive medical care for athletes, sports teams or active individuals who are simply looking to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

cc: Larry Cooper, MS, LAT, ATC; David Saddler

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