

American Medical Association

Policy H-470.995

July 1998

1. The AMA believes that: (1) the Board of Education and the Department of Health of the individual states should encourage that an adequate Athletic Medicine Unit be established in every school that mounts a sports program; (2) the Athletic Medicine Unit should be composed of an allopathic or osteopathic physician director with unlimited license to practice medicine, an athletic health coordinator (preferably a *NATABOC-certified athletic trainer*), and other necessary personnel; (3) the duties of the Athletic Medicine Unit should be prevention of injury, the provision of medical care with the cooperation of the family's physician and others of the health care team of the community, and the rehabilitation of the injured; (4) except in extreme emergencies, the selection of the treating physician is the choice of the parent or guardian and any directed referral therefore requires their consent; (5) the Athletic Medicine Units should be required to submit complete reports of all injuries to a designated authority; and (6) medical schools, colleges, and universities should be urged to cooperate in establishing education programs for athletic health coordinators (*NATABOC-certified athletic trainers*) as well as continuing medical education and graduate programs in Sports Medicine.
2. That the AMA urge high school administrators, athletic directors, and coaches to work with local physicians, medical societies, and medical speciality societies, as well as government officials and community groups to undertake appropriate measures to ensure funding to provide services of a certified athletic trainer to all high school athletes.
3. Recognizing that not all high schools have the resources to procure the services of a certified athletic trainer and further recognizing that athletic trainers cannot be at all practices and competitions, that the AMA encourage high school administrators and athletic directors to ensure that all coaches are appropriately trained in emergency first aid and basic life support.