

**Phoenix High School Receives National Athletic Trainers' Association Safe Sports School Award**  
***Program recognizes high schools that help to keep young athletes safe***

Phoenix, OR— Phoenix High School is the recipient of the National Athletic Trainers' Association Safe Sports School award for its athletics program. The award champions safety and recognizes secondary schools that provide safe environments for student athletes. The award reinforces the importance of providing the best level of care, injury prevention and treatment.

"It is important for parents and guardians to know that their children are safe when they are away from each other. More so, the parents need to know that when their children are participating in competitive sports," said Kurt Smet. "Phoenix High School is honored to receive this 2<sup>nd</sup> Team recognition from NATA, and remains committed to keeping our student athletes safe during physical education classes, team practices and games so they can accomplish their own goals of great competition, fair sportsmanship, and good health. Our goal is to lead our athletics program to the highest safety standards for our players," he finished. Kurt is a certified Athletic Trainer employed by Providence Health & Services who is contracted to Phoenix to provide athletic training services to their student-athletes.

"We remain committed to the health and welfare of young athletes in competitive sports," says NATA President Scott Sailor, EdD, ATC. "This award recognizes the contributions and commitment of schools across the country that are implementing safe sports policies and best practices to ensure athletes can do what they love best and have the appropriate care in place to prevent, manage and treat injuries should they occur."

In order to achieve Safe Sport School status, as Phoenix High School did, athletic programs must do the following:

- Create a positive athletic health care administrative system
- Provide or coordinate pre-participation physical examinations
- Promote safe and appropriate practice and competition facilities
- Plan for selection, fit function and proper maintenance of athletic equipment
- Provide a permanent, appropriately equipped area to evaluate and treat injured athletes
- Develop injury and illness prevention strategies, including protocols for environmental conditions
- Provide or facilitate injury intervention
- Create and rehearse a venue-specific Emergency Action Plan
- Provide or facilitate psychosocial consultation and nutritional counseling/education
- Be sure athletes and parents are educated of the potential benefits and risks in sports as well as their responsibilities

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For more information please visit: [www.athletictrainers.org](http://www.athletictrainers.org).

**About NATA: *National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) – Health Care for Life & Sport***

*Athletic trainers are health care professionals who specialize in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and sport-related illnesses. They prevent and treat chronic musculoskeletal injuries from sports, physical and occupational activity, and provide immediate care for acute injuries. Athletic trainers offer a continuum of care that is unparalleled in health care. The National Athletic Trainers' Association represents and supports 43,000 members of the athletic training profession. Visit [www.nata.org](http://www.nata.org).*