



College Athlete Health and Safety Solutions

NC Fair Treatment of College Athletes Commission Meeting
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North Carolina College Athletes Face Serious Risks

- Athletic associations refuse to enforce health and safety mandates, which reflects the collective will of the colleges:
 - NCAA says it has no duty to protect college athletes
 - NCAA will not take action against athletics personnel that injure or kill players in hazardous workouts, or for knowingly returning players with concussions to the same game
- Conflict of Interest...
 - Team Physician Consensus Statement: Those with professional/personal gain can compromise well-being of college athletes
 - National Athletic Trainer's Assoc. survey: 50% of trainers pressured by coaches to return players with concussions to same game
 - NCAA study: 50% of athletic trainers admit to returning players with concussions to same game
- NCAA will not punish athletic personnel for abusing players or when a coach/trainer knowingly returns a player with a concussion to the same game
 - USA Gymnastics & Michigan State team doctor Larry Nassar's sexual assaults against Michigan St athletes did not violate NCAA rules
- Negligence due to lack of mandates causes serious injury and death i.e...
 - Maryland FB player, Jordan McNair
 - UC Berkeley FB player, Ted Agu
 - Ongoing problem i.e. 3 deaths during 2001 offseason FB workouts
- Injuries are Prevalent & NCAA Allows Players to be Stuck With The Bills
 - 67% of college athletes suffer a major college sports injury
 - 50% of college athletes report chronic college sports injuries
 - Some injuries occur when injured players forced to play or during hazardous workouts

Key Solutions – State Legislation

Appoint Independent Experts to Lead Athlete Protection Program:

- Identify, mandate, and support best health & safety standards to prevent serious injury, death, and player abuse
- Receive and investigate complaints; and fine, suspend, and/or ban violators
- Designate athletic staff as mandated reporters of suspected violations
- Grant whistleblower protections to those reporting violations in good faith
- Approx \$4 million/year (1/2 of 1% of total athletic revenue) paid by athletic program fees can cover all 2-year & 4-year NC colleges and their athletes

Assistance for Injured Athletes

- Establish a fund and/or an insurance policy to help pay for former players' sports-related medical bills
- Requirement for colleges generating at least \$10 million in athletic revenue (all NCAA DI and two NCAA DII colleges):
 - Guaranteed sports-related medical coverage and services for up to 4 years after eligibility expires

Healthy Revenues Can Fund Solutions, Protecting College Athletes Must Become Priority

- NC FBS college athletics revenue increased from \$92 million to \$358 million, but total athlete participation grew by only 9 athletes (2003-2016)
- NC Division I FCS college revenue increased about 524% while participation only increased approximately 38% (2003-2016)