

Model to Report Athlete Abuse

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Quick and easy guide for parents on the process and procedures for primary care physicians to report suspected athlete abuse due to “caregiver”/coach’s inadequate supervision.

1. Parent(s) sign participation waiver and the athlete presents the coach with signed waiver.
2. Sports pre-participation physical and doctor clears athlete to participate.
3. Athlete participation results in serious injury from: •Inadequate coach supervision •Harmful athletic environment •Athlete Endangerment
4. Parent takes athlete to primary physician for examination of possible athlete abuse.
5. Physician reports suspected athlete abuse to District Attorney and Social Services for further investigation.



Examples of Inadequate Coach Supervision and Harmful Sports Environment:

- Withholding drinking water at practice or during competition and resulting heat illness
- Cheering with serious injury or concussion
- Over use injuries such as torn ACLs and stress fractures
- Hitting, slapping, striking and assaulting athletes
- Preying on athletes for sex
- Lack of pre-participation physical exams
- Hazardous cheering surfaces and environments
- Conditioning and training errors
- Lack of, improper, poorly fitted or inadequate safety equipment
- Cheering while injured or overtired. Pressure to cheer injured
- Poor fitness levels of athletes
- Grouping teams by age instead of ability resulting in miss matches
- Poor nutrition of athletes
- Improper techniques during practice
- Practicing in stormy weather conditions and lightening injury with resulting lightening strike
- No warm up or stretching resulting in serious injury
- Lack of sport rules and officials resulting in serious injury
- Death because of no sports 911 emergency plan
- Not using spotters according to industry standard of care

