



# Coach Safely Act Is Law



- The 2017-18 Alabama Legislative session enacted HB9, called the Coach Safely Act.
- The law reaches beyond the High School athlete and brings coaching standards to all the 14 and under aged athletes in Alabama.
- Volunteer community coaches will now be required to take a two hour video series of injury prevention courses
- Courses are delivered online at no-cost

The law is the first of its kind to address public concerns about sports injuries for a youth athlete population that is estimated to be **seven times larger than all athletes above 14 years of age**. The implementing, enforcing and administering the Coach Safely Law is the responsibility of the Alabama Department of Public Health. The law states that the ADOPH has 180 days until implementation.

## Developed by:

The course was developed by the Andrews Research and Education Foundation, led by renown sports medicine pioneer and surgeon Dr. James R. Andrews.



The law requires that the course cover prevention and injury recognition of:

- **Concussions**
- **Heat and Exertion Illnesses**
- **Trauma and Overuse**
- **Sudden Cardiac Arrest**
- **Emergency Action Plan**

## Implemented by:

Every state municipality that sports association in Alabama will be affected by the Coach Safely Act as a matter of risk management. A 501-c-3 foundation has been formed specifically to support all 400 plus state municipalities. The Foundation has been named the Coach Safely Foundation and is supported by Children's of Alabama, Encore Rehabilitation, ThreatAdvice as well as public and private grants.

## Lead by:

The Chief Executive Officer of the CoachSafely Foundation is Dr. Kanti Sunkavalli, MD who is experienced in telehealth education. The Director of Sports Medicine at Children's of Alabama, Drew Ferguson, is the President of the CoachSafely Foundation and will coordinate the role of certified athletic trainers from Encore Rehabilitation as the community engagement personnel for the CoachSafely course that will be delivered by ThreatAdvice learning management technology. The CoachSafely course will be piloted this fall.

## Advocated by:

The Coach Safely Act was advocated by state Coaches from Coach Nick Saban at the University of Alabama and Coach Willie Slater at Tuskegee University to Coach Stacy Luker at Clarke County High School and Coach Jackie O'Neal at Reeltown High School.

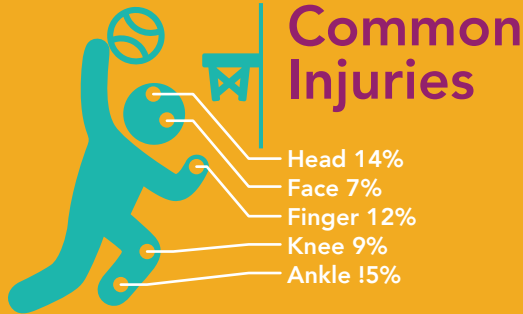


Children's  
of Alabama®



# 1.35 Million

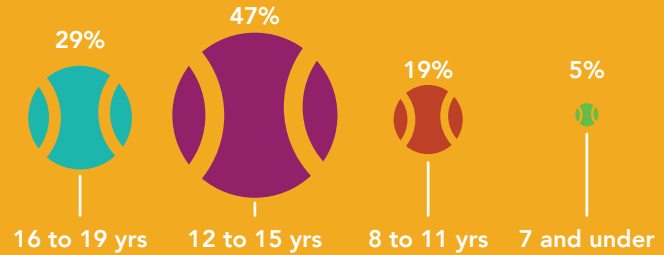
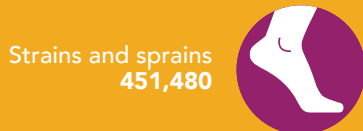
Number of children seen in emergency departments with sports-related injuries in 2012



**47%**  
Almost half of youth sports-related concussions occur in children ages 12 to 15 years old. Younger children take longer to recover from concussions than older children.

## Common Diagnoses

Most common diagnoses seen in emergency departments for sports-related injuries



## Injuries by Sport

For athletes ages 12 to 17 years, 2011

Sport	Number of players	Number of injuries	% of injuries that are concussions
Basketball	6,268,000	249,650	7%
Soccer	3,780,000	104,190	13%
Football	3,246,000	275,050	13%
Volleyball	3,246,000	31,460	6%
Baseball	2,620,000	61,510	11%
Softball	2,163,000	39,070	11%
Cheerleading	1,176,000	28,890	12%
Wrestling	657,000	33,790	14%
Ice Hockey	480,000	9,540	31%