



Department of Athletics
Athletic Training Room
(508) 999 - 8731
Fax (508) 910-6539

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPORT SAFETY
2009-2010

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Participation in sport requires an acceptance of risk of injury. I understand that the risks include a full range of injuries, from minor to severe. I recognize the possibility that I might die, become paralyzed or suffer brain damage or suffer other serious, permanent injury as a result of my the sport, the safety rules and procedures of the sport, participation in the sports program. I realize neither the protective equipment and padding used in the coaching instruction I receive nor the sports medicine care I am provided will guarantee my safety or prevent all injuries I might sustain. I agree to accept these risks as a condition of my participation.

Athletes rightfully assume that those who are responsible for the conduct of sport have taken reasonable precautions to minimize the risk of significant injury. Periodic analysis of injury patterns continuously lead to refinements in the rules and/or safety guidelines. However, to legislate safety via the rule book and equipment standards, while often necessary, is seldom effective in and by itself. To rely on officials to enforce compliance with the rule book is as insufficient as to rely on warning labels to produce behavioral compliance with safety guidelines, not merely technical satisfaction with some of it phrasing.

Some safety problems lend themselves readily to identification and solution (e.g. poor field conditions, faulty equipment, excessive heat). Some safety problems remain problems because of questionable compliance with legislated solutions (e.g. mouthpiece used).

Because of the great stresses and forces in athletics, even proper coaching techniques, officiating, and adequate protection gear is no guarantee against injury. It is the responsibility of the athlete for injury and take steps in conjunction with the athletic department to be aware of the potential necessary to decrease the risk of exposure.

I, _____ have read and understand the above statement.
(print name)