



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

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPORT SAFETY
2008-2009

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 participation in the sports program. I realize neither the protective equipment and padding used in the sport, the safety rules and procedures of the sport, 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 its 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 in conjunction with the athletic department to be aware of the potential for injury and take steps necessary to decrease the risk of exposure.

I, _____
(print name)

have read and understand the above statement.

(Signed)

Date: _____