



Wisconsin Medical Society

Your Doctor. Your Health.

April 13, 2015

Dave Anderson, Executive Director
Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association
5516 Vern Holmes Drive
Stevens Point, WI 54482-8833

Re: Coaches First Aid Certification proposal

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The Wisconsin Medical Society (Society) has become aware of a very important item of business that may come before the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) membership at its annual meeting in late April. The issue presented is whether coaches at all levels in Wisconsin should be required to complete and maintain certification in First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillation (AED).

Please be advised that the Society strongly supports this proposal and urges its passage.

We understand the arguments that may be presented in opposition to this proposal:

- Cost;
- The additional time commitment;
- The possibility that this certification may drive away current and prospective coaches.

These are all reasonable arguments. **However**, they pale in the ultimate importance of being able to save a student athlete's life. Our coaches are the first responders. We need to equip them with the training to be able to effectively do so.

As WIAA membership considers this important question, we would also recommend against immediate implementation. The goal is successful implementation. As such, we would recommend a 12 month delay to enable our coaches and school administration to properly prepare.

Thank you very much for your consideration of the Society's recommendation. Please do not hesitate to contact Rick Abrams at 608-442-3700 if the Society can be of further assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Rolli, MD
Chair of the Board

Richard Dart, MD
President

William R. Abrams
Chief Executive Officer