



# Kansas State High School Activities Association

601 SW Commerce Place, Box 495 • Topeka, KS 66601-0495 • Phone: 785-273-5329, Fax: 785-271-0236 • kshsaa@kshsaa.org • www.kshsaa.org

GARY P. MUSSELMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Assistant Executive Directors: Cheryl Gleason, David Cherry, Francine Martin, Mark Lentz, Jeremy Holaday, Craig Manteuffel

*Member of the National Federation of State High School Associations*

## Advisory – Emergency Action Planning for Spinal Injuries

July 2015

Recently the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) and the Inter-Association Task Force for Appropriate Care of the Spine Injured Athlete released updated recommendations regarding the care and management of the spine injured athlete. These recommendations can be found at

<http://www.nata.org/sites/default/files/Executive-Summary-Spine-Injury-updated.pdf>.

As schools review, update and rehearse their emergency action plans this summer, the KSHSAA and the KSHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee encourage all schools to review these updated recommendations with everyone involved in their school's emergency action plan response. Access to properly trained medical personnel to carry out some of the recommendations will vary greatly from school to school and team to team. As part of the emergency action planning process, it is imperative for school administrators, school medical professionals, coaches, local team physicians and emergency medical personnel to collectively determine how on-field spine injuries will be managed. By identifying protocols and procedures that make the most sense based on available medical personnel, an organized emergency response for on-field spine injuries can be put in place which provides the best possible care for the injured participant.