

Virtual Mentor

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THE CODE SAYS

The AMA *Code of Medical Ethics*' Opinion on Treating Athletes

Opinion 3.06 - Sports Medicine

Physicians should assist athletes to make informed decisions about their participation in amateur and professional contact sports which entail risks of bodily injury.

The professional responsibility of the physician who serves in a medical capacity at an athletic contest or sporting event is to protect the health and safety of the contestants. The desire of spectators, promoters of the event, or even the injured athlete that he or she not be removed from the contest should not be controlling. The physician's judgment should be governed only by medical considerations.
Issued June 1983; updated June 1994.

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