

Sports Injury Guidelines: Communicating with your AT

Washington County Schools Athletic Training

Beth A. Funkhouser, MEd, VATL, ATC, CSCS
276.698.7530
bethf@wcs.k12.va.us

Brad Bussey, ATC
276.356.3642
bbussey@wcs.k12.va.us

There are a lot of sports in action each season in Washington county and therefore a lot of practices and events going on, most often simultaneously. Sadly, the odds that an athletic trainer will be at your event or practice when a situation arises are statistically pretty slim. That being said it is the responsibility of the coach to notify us of injuries and incidents that happen.

In order for us to provide efficient and timely management for injuries and emergencies, we need to be notified in a timely fashion of what has happened. The fact that we have to split coverage between many places and events is not ideal as it is, but if you properly utilize your communication options, it can be a lot more effective. However, this system is only effective if you use it. We cannot help your team if we are not made aware of your troubles.

If a situation occurs, call Beth at 276-698-7530 or Brad at 276-356-3642. If no answer, please leave a message, chances are there is a good reason we could not answer. If you prefer, a text message or email are also valid options. We check all messages often and will respond at our earliest convenience.

We cannot treat an injury with a sense of urgency if it has been 3 or more days from the time it occurred to the time someone finally chooses to make us aware of the situation. A lack of urgency on your part does not create an emergency on ours. Plus, the longer the athlete waits to seek proper treatment, the longer it will take before he or she returns to play.

If we do not hear from you regarding one of your athletes by 10:00 AM the next day, we will NOT rearrange our daily schedule for your needs. Your athlete will be seen when our schedule allows. However, If we have timely notice, arrangements can be made to see your athlete sooner.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.