



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Brain Injury Association of MA to Hold Statewide Sports Injury Conference for Recreation Directors, Coaches, First Responders Tuesday, Oct 24

The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts will hold a sports injury conference on Tuesday, October 24, from 7:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m. at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center in Marlborough, MA.

Entitled "Playing It Safe," the conference is for recreation professionals, coaches, school nurses, EMTs, physicians, parents and others who must rapidly evaluate injuries incurred in high school/teen sports. The conference will provide state-of-the-art information on diagnosing, assessing, and managing sports-related brain injuries and carries continuing education credits for certain specialties.

"Every year in the US, some 300 thousand individuals incur brain injuries while participating in recreational and sports activities – all too often with tragic results," said Arlene Korab, executive director of BIA-MA. "But in recent years, there have been many advances in knowledge about head injuries. With up-to-date information and quick action, professionals can often minimize damage that might otherwise be life-altering."

At the conference, cosponsored by Emerson Hospital (Concord) and the May Institute (Randolph), speakers will include keynoter Chris Nowinski, former wrestler and author of *Head Games: Football's Concussion Crisis*; Don Del Negro, MS, ATC/L/CSCS, head athletic trainer for the Boston Bruins; and William Braun, a former high school football player who sustained a permanent brain damage after being sent back onto the field with an undiagnosed concussion by a coach, who was also his father. William and his father will speak on a panel about Pop Warner Football along with neurotrauma rehabilitation specialist Beth A. Adams, M. Ed. LRC and Robert C. Cantu, MD MA, FACS, FACSM, Chief of Neurosurgery and Director of the Sports Medicine Service at Emerson Hospital.

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Other speakers will include: Kevin Whitney, MA, BSN, Director of Nursing Services at Emerson Hospital (“First Responders and Significant Symptoms of Brain Injury”); Joseph Bergen, D.O. FACEP, chairman of the Department of Emergency Services

(“Emergency Room Evaluation of Head Injured Patients”); Kenneth L. Kolpan, Esq., “Legal Issues,” and Christine Scheuster, President and CEO of Emerson Hospital. Demonstration workshops will include: “Computer Based Neurological Testing,” and “Hands on Sideline Recognition and Management of Head and Spine Injuries.”

CEU credits are available for nurses, EMTs and certified fitness trainers. Fees, which are tax-deductible, and include materials and refreshments, are: \$100 for nurses, \$75 for EMTs and athletic trainers, and \$50.00 for all others. For more information or to register, contact BIA-MA, 30 Lyman St. Suite 10, Westborough, MA 01581. Telephone 508-475-0032; Fax 508-475-0040.

The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA) is a nonprofit corporation providing support, information, prevention, education and advocacy services for individuals, families, professionals and the general public, statewide. Headquartered in Westborough, BIA-MA is one of 43 state organizations affiliated with the National Brain Injury Association, which is based in McLean, Virginia.

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