**Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Mission Statement**

**DISCLAIMER – NFHS and NATA Position Statements and Guidelines**

The National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) and National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA) regularly distributes position statements and guidelines to promote public awareness of specific health and safety-related issues that affect VISAA member schools. Such information is neither exhaustive nor necessarily applicable to all circumstances or individuals and is no substitute for consultation with appropriate healthcare professionals. Statutes, codes, or environmental conditions may be relevant. NFHS and NATA position statements or guidelines should be considered in conjunction with other pertinent materials when taking action or planning care. The NFHS and NATA reserve the right to rescind or modify any such document at any time.

# Mission Statement

The Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association (VISAA) Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) will provide member schools with the best evidence-based practices in support of the health and safety of student-athletes in athletic programs.

# Purpose

The Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) works closely with VISAA membership to provide the healthiest and safest environments for all VISAA member schools. The committee is comprised of individuals with wide ranging medical, athletic and educational expertise. The committee is comprised of sports medicine doctors across the state along with certified athletic trainers representing the four regions of VISAA membership:

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Goals of the Committee

* Assist the VISAA in identifying, prioritizing, and researching sports medicine issues. The committee will proactively address health and risk management issues of general and specific concern to the VISAA and participating student-athletes.
* Work cooperatively with the VISAA Executive Committee to address sports medicine issues as they impact independent school rules and participating student-athlete’s health and risk management.
* Work cooperatively and maintain liaisons with sports medicine, the sports industry, and other related organizations that may assist the committee.
* Advise the VISAA when deemed necessary and possible on questions regarding protective or special equipment not addressed explicitly in the VISAA playing rules.
* Develop, review and revise VISAA position statements and guidelines to assist the VISAA leadership and membership in making informed decisions that minimize the risk associated with student-athlete participation in independent school sports.