



#BATTLEREADY

Just like you, we take athletic safety very seriously. We have invented and patented a line of Unequal® HART® chest protectors that significantly reduce the risk of a deadly medical event called *commotio cordis*, which many simply call *Commotio*.

Commotio cordis occurs as a result of a non-penetrating impact to the area of the chest directly over or near the heart, leading to ventricular fibrillation (VF) and heart failure. Breathing stops and within seconds the athlete is on the ground, unresponsive. The average victim of commotio cordis is a 15-year-old boy; less than half survive. Often what happens in the moment is that the event is mischaracterized as a “weak heart” or “a heart attack” or “pre-existing condition.” Commotio is none of that. And there is no pre-screening to identify someone at risk. It just happens, usually between the ages of 6 – 18, mostly boys.

Existing chest protectors are not designed to protect against and do not protect against commotio cordis. Ours does, as proven in a peer-reviewed, published study from Tufts Medical Center in the *Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine* (Mar 2016/ Jan 2017).

Commotio is the #2 killer in all sports and the #1 cause of death in youth baseball. Now that these deaths are preventable, we are trying to get the word out and at least inform parents and athletes about this deadly risk and the fact that protective gear is available.

Of course, you may choose to provide commotio-protective gear to your athletes or require them to obtain their own. At a minimum, you have a duty to warn of the risk (commotio cordis) and to inform of the solution (Unequal HART).

In order to support you in our shared mission of athletic safety, we have prepared a form as a resource from which you can pull suggested language. It provides example text that you may wish to use to communicate with parents and athletes, while documenting that you have fulfilled your duty to warn athletes for their own safety. You may wish to keep copies of these signed warning forms in the individual athlete folders or such other place as you might keep other sorts of liability waivers and warnings.

Please note that Unequal is not a Law Firm or Medical Professional. We cannot and do not provide legal or medical advice. We are, however, dedicated to raising awareness about the lethal threat of Commotio and ways to thwart it. The following gives you some basic text and some policy suggestions. Feel free to adopt our language or design your own.

We thank you for your support of all athletes and our shared mission to provide protection for them at the highest level possible.

The Unequal Team