

MEMORANDUM

February 12, 2009



TO: Head Athletic Trainers.

FROM: David Klossner  
Director of Health and Safety

SUBJECT: Datalys Center Announces Transition Plan for the NCAA Injury Surveillance Program.

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As announced last year, the Datalys Center for Injury Research and Prevention will be taking over the day-to-day management of the NCAA's injury surveillance program, starting with the 2009 – 2010 academic year. More information about Datalys and the NCAA's decision to transition the management of its injury surveillance program to Datalys is available by reading the "[About Us](#)", "[Press Room](#)", and "[AT News](#)" links at the Datalys Center Web site.

During this time of transition, the Datalys Center is committed to providing more frequent and timelier updates to you. In fact, you can register to have a Datalys Center representative contact you to answer your questions and discuss options available to you for participating in the Datalys-managed NCAA injury surveillance program. In addition, you can sign up to receive regular e-newsletters from the Datalys Center, which will include updates regarding the transition of the injury surveillance program and other important information.

Within the next 60 days, Datalys will be launching its new injury surveillance program in partnership with the NCAA. Of note, Datalys is deploying a two-pronged technology approach aimed at better serving the individual needs of collegiate athletic trainers.

- **Datalys Injury Surveillance Tool** – Datalys will be launching a new, free, electronic Injury Surveillance Tool aimed at streamlining the data collection process for schools that are committed to supporting the NCAA's injury surveillance and student-athlete health and safety programs. The Datalys Center will be directly supporting the rollout, training, and customer support for the Injury Surveillance Tool in a manner consistent with the NCAA's past management of the ISS Web portal.

Consistent with the current ISS Web portal, the new Injury Surveillance Tool will include functionality for all NCAA Sports, Rosters, Calendar, Injury Reporting, and Injury Case Printing. One important functional change will be a simplified athletics exposure recording process that should help reduce time spent on data entry.

Datalys is committed to launching this application by **April 15, 2009**. If you'd like to learn more or schedule a demo, please register at [www.DatalysCenter.org](http://www.DatalysCenter.org).

N a t i o n a l C o l l e g i a t e A t h l e t i c A s s o c i a t i o n

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- **Export Engine** – On March 15, Datalys will be publishing for the first time in NCAA ISS history, a data transmission standard called Export Engine that will allow athletic trainers to transfer injury surveillance data directly from their existing commercial athletic training facility software applications. The Export Engine program has been designed to eliminate the need for ‘double data entry’ for schools that use a commercial software application to manage tasks in the athletic training setting. To learn more about the Export Engine program and how you can encourage your vendor to participate visit the Datalys Center Web site.

Current participants in the NCAA’s ISS have been invaluable to the NCAA and its efforts to promote student-athlete health and safety. Some of the frequently asked questions are answered below.

### **What are the benefits to participating in the NCAA’s Injury Surveillance program?**

The primary benefit is the mitigation and reduction of student-athlete injuries through the use of the surveillance data to facilitate informed discussion and when appropriate, new sport policies and rules. In addition, the Datalys Center is committed to providing injury reporting back to schools on a timelier and more regular basis to better support local decisions by schools and conferences. It is important to note that schools and/or conferences need to have provided enough data to meet the minimum data release requirements (e.g., data quality and quantity to ensure confidentiality of statistical rigor).

In addition, there are now more choices for how athletic trainers can participate including the **continued availability** of a free Injury Surveillance Tool that has been streamlined to reduce the amount of time and effort required by athletic trainers.

### **What is happening to the current ISS Web portal?**

As part of the transition, the NCAA ISS Web portal is being replaced with a new technology approach for injury surveillance data collection. The new technology approach has been designed in consultation with the NCAA, prominent sports injury surveillance experts from around the country, current ISS users, and technology consultants.

To better accommodate the needs of current ISS users during the transition, it is the intent of the NCAA to provide institutions that have used the ISS Web portal from July 2004 to June 2009 with **read-only system access** to their data until **August 1, 2010**.

- This will provide the institution with the ability to print a paper copy or save as an Excel document the previous years’ records for their files if they have not done so already.
- If institutions require more time to access their data, institutions will need to inform the NCAA no later than June 1, 2010.
- During 2009-10, the NCAA will evaluate the possibility of uploading data to a Datalys Center certified vendor participating in the Export Engine program.

**If I want to participate in the Datalys Center managed NCAA injury surveillance program, what do I need to do?**

To participate in the NCAA injury surveillance program you need to register at [www.DatalysCenter.org](http://www.DatalysCenter.org). Once you've registered, a Datalys Center representative will contact you to answer your questions and provide information on the participation options available to you.

**What if I'm working with my institution's IT staff to develop or manage an application for my athletic training services?**

The Export Engine program is applicable and available to you as well. However, it does require your institution's IT staff to adopt and support the same Export Engine protocols and standards as a commercial vendor.

**If I want to learn more or have additional questions, what should I do?**

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Once you've registered a Datalys Center representative will follow up with you directly to answer your questions and explore participation options available to you. During the registration process you will also be given an option to sign up to receive regular e-newsletters from the Datalys Center, which will include updates regarding the transition of the injury surveillance system and other important information.

We appreciate your patience during this time of transition and look forward to our continued partnership with the athletic training community to improve the health and safety of student-athletes.

Thank you for your continued support.

DK:rhb