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The Arizona Sports Concussion Center (ASCC) announces partnerships with the Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Association, Sereno Soccer Club and Arizona Pop Warner.

Partnering with the **AIA** as the exclusive Program Manager and **ImPACT** neuropsychological baseline testing company to Arizona's High School athletes, **ASCC** is now positioned to proactively assist team physicians and medical professionals make more precise decisions about when it is safe to return athletes to play after a head trauma. Using empirical data comparing post injury test results with baseline tests assists athletes, their families, coaches, and Athletic Trainers in preventing Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) or even death by concussion injury. Continued education and the use of the **ImPACT Test** as part of a physician's overall concussion management plan can help to avoid both Post Concussion Syndrome, and the often life altering Second Impact Syndrome (SIS) -which can lead to permanent brain damage, and sadly even death.

According to **Chuck Schmidt COO of the AIA** "Our partnership with the **AZ Sports Concussion Center** provides Arizona's high school athletes the access to **ImPACT neurocognitive testing** and concussion education on a pre-season, pre injury basis at a reasonable price, through sponsorships, grants, or parent contributions. It's what is provided for both Professional athletes and NCAA student-athletes, and is a necessity for our high school kids."

ASCC will also provide similar services to both **The Sereno Soccer Club** and **Arizona Pop Warner**. Getting athletes tested at an early age will provide valuable data to the research programs that contribute to the overall effectiveness of the **ImPACT** testing program, and again give coaches, parents, administrators, and physicians the data they need to protect the young athletes in Arizona from **unsafe Return to Play decisions**. These younger athletes are especially at risk because their brains are still developing, and a repeated concussion could sideline their life.

Darla Sipolt—Sereno Soccer Club—President: "The Sereno Soccer Club supports our players' safety on and off the athletic field. For the first time, the club will schedule dates for all of our players, starting at age 11, to complete concussion testing prior to the fall season. It's our way of safely addressing the nationwide concern about youth athletes and brain injuries." **Sereno Soccer Club** is a non-profit educational and training organization dedicated to providing the absolute best soccer instruction and character-building experience for competitive and recreational youth soccer players ages 5 to 19. Every year over 1,000 children in the greater Phoenix area participate in the programs of the **Sereno Soccer Club**. For more information, visit www.serenosoccer.com.

Paul Watkins—Pop Warner—President: "We are excited to see a number of our teams and individual players understand the importance of sports concussions and participate in the **ImPACT neurocognitive testing** provided by the **AZ Sports Concussion Center**. We'd like to encourage all of our players to become a part of this program. Concussion injuries impact life in general-not just sports participation."

The mission of the **Arizona Sports Concussion Center** is to promote the well-being of High School and Youth Athletes in Arizona by providing neurological computerized testing on a pre-injury and post-injury basis, combined with Head Injury Education.

ASCC is also supported by the **Arizona Sports Concussion Network**, the state's only independent organization of its type. **AZSCN** is an alliance of physicians, psychologists, athletic trainers, high school administrators and other youth sports leaders dedicated to increasing awareness of and preventing life-altering, concussion-related injuries to young athletes from age 11. The members of this unique coalition warn of the consequences associated with the all-too-frequent and largely preventable occurrences of **Post Concussion Syndrome**, **Second Impact Syndrome** and other permanent brain injuries.

For more information on the **Arizona Sports Concussion Center**, please visit our website at www.azsportsconcussion.com or contact us directly at our office which is staffed and equipped with several testing stations available and is open for baseline and post injury testing during regular business hours. Please call for an appointment.