# Risk and Crisis Management in Athletics

#### Julie Soriero

Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation Emeritus

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

#### Jeff Martinez

Director of Athletics and Physical Education

University of Redlands

### ACTIVE SHOOTER – FEBRUARY









### BOSTON MARATHON BOMBING







### OFFICER SEAN COLLIER





### CARDIAC ARREST ON THE COURT

- 21 year old senior studentathlete with no history of prior conditions
- EAP activated immediately
- Student-athlete was revived with CPR/AED
- Game goes on...



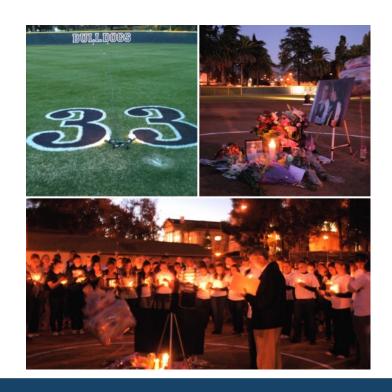
#### TABLE TOPIC DISCUSSION

 Please share an incident that has occurred on your campus that was directly related to athletics and the one most valuable lesson learned

#whyd3

#### CRISIS/EMERGENCY STAGES

- In the moment!
- Next steps
- Post crisis
- Larger picture long term



### CRITICAL ASSESSMENTS





#### **Assess:**

- What I know
- What I don't know
- What I need to find out

Identify the key decision-makers:

- Clear the room for conversations, decisions, next steps and identify areas of responsibility
- Point of Contact

Determine appropriate communications and be clear and informative:

- Athletics website, rec. website, home page
- Communication strategy internal and external responsibilities

#### IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS



- Identify key partners.
- Know relevant systems.
- Clarify and communicate terms.
- Identify and address potential challenges.

FOR DISABLED VEHICLE

CONTACT ATHLETICS BUSINESS OFFICE & RENTA

VENDOR IF RENTAL VEHICLE BREAKS DOWN

#### **DURING/POST EVENT ACTION**

#whyd3

- Varsity contests:
  - Schools coming to campus/teams leaving campus.
- What the safe, appropriate and respectful decisions should be:
  - Consideration of safety relevant to situation.
  - · Needs of campus community.
  - Needs of students –normalcy and support.

- Think beyond the specific emergency event – Memorial service and NCAA Men's Volleyball Championships.
- · Demand on facility and staff.
- Changing of competition/practice sites.
- Timing teams leaving service .
- Facility closing.



#### TABLE TOPIC DISCUSSION

Who are your key partners?

 What are your important considerations in initiating your outreach?

#### LESSONS LEARNED

- Have a communication protocol
  - 24/7 system and backup
- Be consistent, thoughtful and firm with your decision – everyone needs that
- Debrief
- Practice and drill



#### CREATING THE CRISIS, EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP)

- Who is responsible for creating the EAP?
- Review and revisions of the EAP.
- The Role of the ADR, the AD and others in your EAP.



## KEYS TO A COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP)



- EAP will "provide directions" but is not the exact final road map.
- EAP must be flexible "adjust on the fly."
- A comprehensive, rehearsed plan ensures "adjustments" have little impact on final outcome.
- A written EAP, will become your minimum standard of care.
- Debrief and post EAP use is a must in all instances.

# EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP) COMPONENTS

- Format of EAP.
- Key personnel.
- Communications and signage.
- · Venues.
- Training.
- Equipment.
- Assessment and review.



#### RISK MANAGEMENT

 How is Risk Management discussed and practiced in your department, division, etc.?

### **QUESTIONS?**

### Thank you!

Julie Soriero – jsoriero@mit.edu

Jeff Martinez – jeff\_martinez@redlands.edu