

AOA Resolution on Sports Related Eye Injuries



American Optometric Association

Preventing Sports – Related Eye Injuries

RESOLVED, that AOA House of Delegates Resolution 1928 be amended to read as follow:

Preventing Sports – Related Eye Injuries

WHEREAS, the mission of the American Optometric Association (AOA) Sports Vision Section is to advance the quality and delivery of full-scope optometric sports vision care; to promote sports vision education, eye injury prevention and research; and to evaluate, treat and enhance the vision of athletes; and

WHEREAS, approximately 100,000 eye injuries occur annually in activities related to sports and most are preventable; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Health in Health People 2010 set vision objectives for the country and objective 28-9 is to increase the use of appropriate personal protective eyewear in recreational activities and hazardous situations around the home; and

WHEREAS, the National Youth Sports Safety Foundation states, “the sports that are responsible for the greatest number of eye injuries are baseball, ice hockey and racquet sports”; and

WHEREAS, an eye injury to a monocular athlete has the potential for serious consequences; and

WHEREAS, eye injuries are often disabling and create enormous costs to the injured and to society; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the optometrist’s role in preventing sports-related eye injuries includes addressing individual athlete’s needs, identifying monocular athletes, and inform patients of the need for protective eyewear; and be in further

RESOLVED, that the American Optometric Association encourages the use of protective eyewear that meets the standards set by the American Society for Testing and Materials and the American National Standards Institute.