

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

LATEST INFORMATION AND FINANCIALS FROM  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR SPORTS SAFETY



Prepared by: Kelly Rice, RN, Programs Director





## WHO WE ARE



DR. LAWRENCE LEMAK  
FOUNDER



CRAIG FORD  
BOARD MEMBER



JIM LOWERY  
BOARD MEMBER



BERKLEY SQUIRES  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



KELLY RICE, RN  
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR





## SAFE SPORT CITY INITIATIVE

Our goals are to improve and prioritize health and safety for athletic participants and spectators at city's sports venues and promote a city-wide culture of health and safety through proactive safeguards and training of personnel.

Cities must meet requirements related to:

- developing emergency plans for all city sports facilities/venues
- implementing standardized communication methods
- training for sports personnel
- training for city facility/venue personal
- training for EMS personnel
- ensuring sports safety expectations for secondary schools

Upon completion of the requirements, cities are awarded the National Center for Sports Safety (NCSS) Safe Sport City Award.

In 2025, the cities of Hoover and Haleyville completed their requirements for NCSS Safe Sport City designation. The city of Gadsden has started their process and will complete their requirements in 2026.







## SAFE SPORT VENUE INITIATIVE

Our goals are to improve and prioritize health and safety for athletic participants and spectators at sports venues and promote an organization-wide culture of health and safety through proactive safeguards and training of personnel.

Sports venues must meet requirements related to:

- developing emergency plans for all sports venues
- implementing standardized communication methods
- training for sports personnel
- training for venue administrators and staff
- training for EMS personnel

Upon completion of the requirements, sports venues are awarded the National Center for Sports Safety (NCSS) Safe Sport Venue Award.

In 2025, the Hoover Metropolitan Complex completed their requirements for NCSS Safe Sport Venue designation.

Sports Facilities Companies (SFC) has committed to begin the designation process of all of their Alabama sports venues--Muscle Shoals Sports Complex, Sand Mountain Park and Amphitheater, Bill Noble Park and Alabama A&M University.







## SPORTS RESPONDER TRAINING

The Sports Responder course trains EMS and Fire Department personnel who provide emergency services during athletic events. Its goal is to integrate EMS with Athletic Trainers and provide a means to "fill the gaps" when an Athletic Trainer is not available for sports coverage. This course provides additional education on sports-related injuries and conditions for the overall health and wellness of the athlete. Upon completion of this course, the user receives Sports Responder certification.

Topics covered include:

- Pre-season Preparation
- Heat Illness Management
- Concussion Management
- Helmet and Shoulder Pad Removal
- Common Sports Illnesses/Injuries

In 2025, in partnership with the Alabama Fire College, we trained 30 EMS and FD personnel in Alabama and Mississippi in the Train the Trainer Course for Sports Responder.

These medical professionals can now go out and train their departments in the hands-on skills to safely remove athletic equipment from injured players.

# 15 RTCS

This year, NCSS stocked 15 Alabama Fire College Regional Training Centers with the equipment needed to teach these skills to EMS and FD personnel who stand by at athletic events in their communities.





## PREPARE COACH COURSE

The PREPARE Coaches Course educates coaches on sports safety and illness and injury prevention. It educates how to recognize symptoms of potentially dangerous conditions and how to respond in emergency situations. It includes and goes far beyond concussion education. Upon successful completion of the course and passing the comprehensive test, the user receives a certificate.

The NCSS Prepare Course is recognized and implemented by many national governing bodies including Pop Warner Football and is used by the Alabama, Georgia and Florida High School Athletic Associations, and the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

IN 2025, OUR PREPARE COACH  
COURSE TRAINED OVER 3600  
COACHES ALL OVER THE US.

# 3600 +





## FINANCIAL AND TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

2025  
TRAINING  
REVENUE  
INCREASED BY

14.25%

2025  
INDIVIDUALS  
TRAINED  
INCREASED BY

10.78%





## ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

NCSS created a new position and hired a Programs Director. Kelly Rice has been a nurse for 30 years and has previous non-profit experience. She develops and administers all aspects of the Prepare for Coaches curriculum. She oversees the Safe Sport Programs for sports venues and cities. She works with these organizations to ensure they are prepared and ready for sports emergencies for both athletes and spectators. She assists them with all aspects of emergency planning as well as training for sports, city, venue, and EMS personnel. She also assists in developing and teaching the Sports Responder course for EMS and Fire Department personnel.

All NCSS curriculums were updated for content and formatting--Prepare for Coaches, Prepare Venue Administrators, Prepare Venue Staff and Sports Responder for EMS.

Our website underwent a complete overhaul.

New organizational policies and procedures were drafted and adopted.

The current budget was thoroughly reviewed and changes made to better monetize funds/revenue/expenditures.

2026 budget has been completed.





CONTACT US FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION