

I sent the following message on January 22, 2024, with regard to "Child Endangerment" in schools. Neither Principal Robin Grant, nor Director of Education, "Dr." Randy McDaniel, ever directly responded to me.

Mike Toledo 

Sent - iCloud January 22, 2024 at 11:21 AM



Child Endangerment: What parents don't know...

[Details](#)

To: Robin.Grant@tvcs.org, Cc: Randy.McDaniel@tvcs.org

Robin,

As a resident of The Villages, I wanted to inform you of my recent experience dealing with the "clearance" process to qualify as a "volunteer" high school coach in Florida, via the Citrus County School Board, which led me to discover some significant facts regarding the deadliest of all school sports events. I wrote to your Athletic Director, Richard Pettus, on January 3, 2024, regarding my concern for this subject but have never received a response.

I became seriously associated with the event of pole vault in 1991, when I was able to attend one of my son's practices at Bob Mathias Stadium, in Tulare, California, for the first time. I was horrified by the coaching negligence I witnessed. Soon after that, I was in contact with the Tulare Union High School Athletic Director. That is when I discovered two high school teenagers died in the United States, that same year, after both young men sustained fatal injuries misusing fiberglass vaulting poles. Coincidentally, I also discovered that the first fiberglass vaulting poles were originally created for Bob Mathias by his Tulare High School coach. My earnest quest in discovering pole vault's needless deadly flaws and corruption began at that time. It's been a very long and convoluted journey that brought us here.

Many years ago, when I spoke to the father of Darin Ohnstad, 1983 avoidable teenage pole vault fatality, the phrase "There but for the Grace of God go I" penetrated my being. I am obligated to young Darin, and countless other innocent victims of this corrupt event, to expose the nefarious reasons why these needless tragedies are being allowed to persist. The primary reason these dilemmas continue unabated is that few people have the courage and tenacity to bring such disturbing issues into the light while leaving parents completely in the dark.

Every Athletic Director and parent in America, needs to be made aware of avoidable concealed hazards related to the most lethal event in school sports. Pole vault is the most hazard laden of any sports event endangering school children across our nation. While presenting the greatest hazards per participant, pole vault is also the most expensive sporting event per competitor. Simultaneously, while being the most lethal sports event, it is also among the most improperly, carelessly and irresponsibly taught events in children's sports to this very day.

St. Petersburg Times ONLINE SPORTS



The deadliest sport in America

Pole vaulting has the highest death rate of any sport in the country.

By BOB PUTNAM
© St. Petersburg Times
published March 12, 2002

Whenever University of Florida pole vaulter Paul Condon steams down the 35-meter runway like a locomotive, he carries a 16-foot fiberglass pole labeled with this warning:

"Vaulting is a dangerous activity. Severe injury, paralysis and death may occur."

In the past month death has occurred more frequently.

On Feb. 23, Penn State University sophomore Kevin Dare died while competing in the Big 10 indoor championships. He was attempting to clear 15 feet, 7 inches when he tumbled backward onto the metal box, the area used to plant the pole.

Here is the link to the above article: <https://www.tampabay.com/archive/2002/03/12/the-deadliest-sport-in-america/>

It is essential to point out that I am being scrutinized by a local Florida School Board while businesses selling and renting lethal vaulting poles, together with other high priced related equipment, to our children's schools, are doing so entirely without due diligence.

As an example, for the record, located in Mims, Florida, Sky Pole Vault Elite Athletics is, with impunity, placing into the hands of misinformed minor boys and girls the most lethal weapon ever devised by man. Flexible vaulting poles are thoroughly documented as deadly, yet, Sky Pole Vault Elite Athletics' proprietor, Sean Young, is operating within Florida's school system absolutely free of proper investigation.

- <https://sites.google.com/site/skypolevault321scy/rent-poles> -

Mariana Young is with Sean Young
January 10 at 10:47 AM



I was recently informed that, in order to finalize my qualifications to volunteer as a coach in Citrus County, I am required to complete National Federation of State High School examinations on that organization's website. When I reviewed the National Federation of State High School Organizations' pole vault lessons, I was appalled by the dangerous misinformation NFHS is propagandizing. Right off the bat, the modules espouse deadly teachings that my son and I publicly validated as negligent 32 years ago. Deadly NFHS & USATF pole vault curriculum should NEVER be represented as CORRECT and forced upon anyone.

For your own proof of what I'm charging, please, peruse only the beginning paragraphs at this link: deadlypoles.com - In a brief period of time, you will see disturbing subject matter that reeks of child endangerment being proliferated and condoned by the same principals in charge of NFHS & USATF pole vault education.

Parents of children attending our schools, together with all members of the general public, need to be aware of these facts. I know this from my own firsthand experience as a parent who was long ago completely ignorant of the hazards hidden behind the curtain veiling pole vault dangers of which members embedded within these organizations do NOT want the public to have knowledge.

Your response would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Michael Toledo
(805) 314-1392