A Word from the Chair  
*Derek Cunningham, O.D.*

Letting everyone know.

We are shifting gears at the sports vision section and would like to keep everyone informed. Most people do not realize that they practice some level of sports vision in their primary care practices. Anytime you treat or prescribe anything (meds or vision correction) to an athlete, you are going to affect their performance. This is a foundation of sports vision and in your patients’ eyes; you are the authority regardless of what your personal interest in sports vision is. Although correcting a patient’s vision in the lane is essential remember that your patient/athlete will rarely be in a dim room looking at 100% contrast letters in a static setting. The only time they will likely ever experience that visual situation is in your office.

In seeking to raise the awareness of sports vision among our colleagues, we have realized that we share many interests with other optometric specialty groups as well as medical specialties. For instance, most of our young athletes will wear contact lenses if they require correction. Maintaining optimum vision and comfort for these athletes is a special area of interest for both us and the cornea and contact lens section. We are looking at collaborative efforts with many other groups not only to increase awareness of sports vision, but ultimately to ensure better care for all of our patients.

Some future collaborations that we are working towards include:

1. Educational programs on concussion evaluation and rehabilitation with neurology and the National Athletic Trainers Association
2. Joint educational initiatives on ocular trauma and visual assessment with the National Athletic Trainers Association
3. Establishing an national database on sport related eye injury with the National Collegiate Athletic Association

We are always looking for feedback from our sports vision section members and soon-to-be-members (that is everyone else). We have grand ideas of what we envision optometry’s involvement will be in anything that involves demanding or dynamic visual input, but need to always make sure we are aligned with our section membership. Shoot me an email and let me know what you think of these initiatives or ideas for new ones. derek.n.cunningham@gmail.com

Regards,

*Derek Cunningham, O.D.*  
*Chair, AOA Sports Vision Section*