



10/15/07

Dear Broadcast Partner,

During several of this seasons televised games, the color commentators and play-by-play announcers have used the term “trainer” to describe the team’s “Head Athletic Trainer.”

Over the past several years, the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA) has attempted to make strides in defining ourselves as "Certified Athletic Trainer" or "athletic trainer". We wish to move away from simply being termed "trainers." This term often leads to confusion with those "trainers" who have chosen to work for gyms or health club and simply take a personal trainer exam. For example, Greg Anderson, Barry Bond's "trainer," is not a Certified Athletic Trainer, yet we are often bundled together by the media under the term “trainer.” Certified Athletic Trainers attend accredited programs at four year universities with over 80% obtaining an advanced degree such as Master or Doctorate. We are an allied health profession working under the direction of team physicians.

MLS Athletic Trainers have discussed this topic and would like to see that the terminology is used more appropriately. We are reaching out to our broadcast partners and individual organizations to assist us. There has been a great success educating some of the local broadcasting teams. Their use of the term "Head Athletic Trainer" fits well into the broadcast and allows for the audience to appreciate the care that their favorite athletes are receiving, while giving proper credit to our profession. They have even gone as far to identify MLS athletic trainers as they would the assistant or head coach.

This is a topic that we are all passionate about and would greatly appreciate your assistance. Please feel free to pass this letter to anyone that you feel necessary within your organization as this is an issue with all broadcast sports, not just soccer. If you have any additional questions or concerns, or need further information please let us know. Thank you for your assistance and support.

Sincerely,

Major League Soccer Athletic Trainer Advisory Committee
Professional Soccer Athletic Trainers’ Society