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SPECIAL REPORT | INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL CONSENSUS

A Milestone in Global Sports Dentistry: Joint ASD–EA4SD Consensus Defines the Sports Dentist and Team Dentist

1. INTRODUCTION

On 12 October 2026, the Academy for Sports Dentistry (ASD) and the European Association for Sports Dentistry (EA4SD) announced a joint consensus statement defining the Sports Dentist and the Team Dentist and setting out recommended professional standards and responsibilities. The collaboration is a significant development for a field in which professional role descriptions and expectations have not always been consistent across settings and countries[1,2].

The statement is directed not only to dental practitioners but also to physicians, athletic trainers, coaches, sporting organizations, athletes, school administrators, parents and the public. Its purpose is to help stakeholders identify appropriately qualified practitioners and understand the contribution of sports dentistry to athlete healthcare[1].

2. DEFINING THE SPORTS DENTIST

The joint statement defines a Sports Dentist as a licensed dental professional with advanced specialized training in preventing, diagnosing and treating oral injuries and conditions associated with athletics and exercise. It places the Sports Dentist within the athlete's medical team, contributing to emergency trauma care, continuing oral healthcare and education[1].

The recommended standards extend beyond treatment of traumatic dental injuries. They include understanding sport-specific risks; dental and orofacial injury prevention; fabrication and maintenance of

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appropriate mouthguards; urgent management of hard- and soft-tissue injuries; and participation in post-injury care and return-to-play planning. They also encompass recognition of wider health concerns such as concussion red flags, heat-related illness and airway compromise, together with awareness of medication, supplement and anti-doping rules[1].

The statement emphasizes an active professional license, participation in recognized dentistry organizations, continuing professional education, familiarity with sports culture and effective communication with athletes, families, coaches and medical colleagues. These are presented as recommended professional expectations within the joint consensus[1].

3. THE DISTINCT ROLE OF THE TEAM DENTIST

The statement describes the Team Dentist as a Sports Dentist affiliated with a sports team or athletic facility. This appointment carries ongoing organizational and clinical responsibilities in addition to the underlying professional competencies of a Sports Dentist[1].

Responsibilities outlined include pre- and post-season oral health examinations; adherence to current preparticipation evaluation guidance; accessibility at all hours for dental and orofacial emergencies; event-day on-site or immediate-response coverage; and access to suitable preventive appliances and trauma management. The Team Dentist is expected to work within the established medical team, understand reporting relationships, document care, protect athlete confidentiality, coordinate post-injury rehabilitation and contribute to safe return-to-play planning[1].

4. WHY THE AGREEMENT MATTERS

By articulating a common description of professional roles, ASD and EA4SD provide a reference point for dentists seeking focused training, sporting organizations selecting dental professionals, and multidisciplinary teams coordinating athlete care. The document may also inform future educational programs, competency discussions and locally appropriate service standards. Its implementation will necessarily depend on national licensing rules, institutional arrangements and the resources available to the relevant team or setting.

The breadth of the framework is important. Sports dentistry is presented not merely as emergency treatment or mouthguard provision, but as a preventive, clinical, educational and collaborative responsibility that extends across the athlete's period of participation. The joint statement therefore helps articulate sports dentistry's professional identity while supporting clearer expectations of care[1,2].

5. LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVES AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

In the official announcement, ASD President E. Jan Chithalen described the collaborative outcome as guidance for dentists and for sports teams, medical colleagues, schools, families and athletes when identifying qualified practitioners. EA4SD President Alessandro Nanussi emphasized the importance of transatlantic alignment in developing a shared international framework and strengthening the integration of sports dentistry into sports medicine[2].

This collaboration brings together two established professional associations with complementary international networks and a shared commitment to sports-related oral health, prevention, education and interdisciplinary care. The statement represents a consensus issued by these two organizations; it should not be interpreted as a statutory licensing standard or a regulation adopted by all national jurisdictions.

6. CONCLUSION

The ASD–EA4SD joint consensus statement of October 2026 is an important professional milestone. By distinguishing the core competencies of a Sports

Dentist from the additional responsibilities of a Team Dentist, it offers a practical reference for practitioners, teams and other stakeholders. Its enduring value will lie in how the profession, educational institutions and sports organizations use this shared framework to strengthen training, appropriate appointment and athlete-centred care.

7. ACCESS THE OFFICIAL CONSENSUS STATEMENT AND PRESS RELEASE

The complete ASD–EA4SD joint consensus statement and the official announcement of 12 October 2026 are available through the following sources:

Read the full consensus statement: ASD–EA4SD Sports Dentist Consensus Statement

Read the official press release: ASD–EA4SD Joint Press Release (12 October 2026)

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

IJSDPS acknowledges the Academy for Sports Dentistry and the European Association for Sports Dentistry for their collaboration in issuing this joint statement. We recognize the leadership of Dr E. Jan Chithalen, President of ASD, and Dr Alessandro Nanussi, President of EA4SD.

IJSDPS particularly recognizes Dr Emilio Canal, Strategic Consensus Lead for ASD, who was instrumental in facilitating the work between the two organizations and helping bring the joint consensus together. We also acknowledge Dr Thanos Stamos, Executive Vice President of EA4SD, for his contribution to the collaborative effort and his role in helping build the consensus

The following rosters are reproduced from the organizations' published leadership pages and are supplied for verification and approval. Listing below denotes organizational leadership, not individual authorship, contribution to drafting, or endorsement beyond the joint organizational statement.

Table 1. European Association for Sports Dentistry (EA4SD)[3]

Name	Published designation
Alessandro Nanussi	President
Thanos Stamos	Executive Vice President
John Haughey	Vice President
Sophie Cantamessa	General Secretary; Honorary Past President
Thierry Crouzette	Treasurer
Jean-Luc Dartevelle	Honorary President
Marc Engels-Deutsch	Honorary Past President
Flavia Del Grosso	Board Member
Christos Rachiotis	Board Member
Florian Trombowski	Board Member

Table 2. Academy for Sports Dentistry (ASD)[4]

Name	Published designation
E. Jan Chithalen	President
Kristopher Rappold	President-Elect
Jared Mosley	Secretary
Howard Edelman	Treasurer
Margarita Correa	Three-year term Board Member
Chad Kasperowski	Three-year term Board Member
Dr. Chase Seubert	Board Member
John Haughey	Board Member
Kent Ochiai	Board Member
Michael Salyzyn	Immediate Past President

Table 3. ASD additional leadership and administrative roles

Name	Published designation
Hans M. Stasiuk	Newsletter Editor
Brian Li	Website / Social Media Director
Vinnie Mascia	Executive Director
Tracy Abel	Executive Secretary

9. REFERENCES

1. Academy for Sports Dentistry; European Association for Sports Dentistry. Sports Dentist Consensus Statement [Internet]. Available from: https://asd.memberclicks.net/sports-dentist-consensus-statement (accessed 22 October 2026).
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