



UNITED STATES SPORTS CHIROPRACTIC FEDERATION MANUAL 2001

GOALS

The goal of this manual is to guide you in providing professional Chiropractic care at sanctioned sporting events. This involves the assessment, treatment, management and rehabilitation of injured athletes where it is appropriate.

THIS IS A VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The service you offered is a benefit to the community and provides Chiropractors with an avenue to work directly with athletes. Chiropractors become involved with these events out of the love for the profession, sport and an opportunity to help people.

LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE

All USSCF members are required to be licensed in the state they practice in and a registered member of a National Chiropractic Sports Council and the United States Sports Chiropractic Federation. It is a requirement prior to participation that members carry their own personal liability malpractice insurance.

THE SPORTS MEDICINE TEAM

In most cases, a pre-selected and designated "Medical Director" or "Chef de Mission" will oversee the sports events medical team. This team may consist of one health care profession or a combination of health care professionals. All members of the medical team should be licensed to practice their profession, and have current malpractice insurance as well as a current CPR certification. Member Chiropractors are not a substitute for emergency medical care personnel, but work as part of a team.

It is hoped that this manual will allow for consistent operation of Federation events, foster a team approach, aid interprofessional relations and promote the practice of Chiropractic within the realm of sports medicine.

This concept is designed to give each Federation member an equal opportunity to render quality Chiropractic services to athletes in USSCF sanctioned events.

It is the hope of the USSCF, that each of it's members follow these principles, allowing the profession to present the best possible impression to the public, and other sports health care providers.

CODE OF ETHICS

1. Be the best Chiropractor you can be! Be on time. Be honest, reliable, consistent, polite and positive. Practice safely and legally, and be respectful of others. Be a team player. Be a good communicator, and be an asset to Chiropractic.
2. Self-Promotion: Your involvement in USSCF sanctioned events is not intended to be a personal practice building tool. No member may give out any personal literature, business cards etc. without the consent of the Event Director in charge of the event.
3. Dress Requirements: Dress appropriately and professionally. Ragged, worn clothing, suggestive and/or revealing clothes, loud and bizarre styles are not recommended. Please dress conservatively. Be professional.

Understand that the sport you are attending may have other requirements, and the event director may request a clothing change, due to event sponsorship.

Refrain from wearing expensive or extravagant jewelry.

4. Property: It is the duty of each participant to maintain the property and area they are using. The use of other people's equipment should be treated as if it were your own. The treatment areas should be kept looking as clean and professional as possible at all times.

5. Conduct: No Ethnic or off color remarks. Remarks or jokes, vulgar comments or displays, made in the presence of event participants is prohibited. Be a professional.

6. All treatment areas are considered nonsmoking areas.

The use of alcoholic beverages, or illegal drugs during event participation is strictly prohibited. Public displays of drunken, rowdy behavior are unacceptable.

Sexual contact with athletes or patients is strictly prohibited. A strict code of moral conduct and behavior between team members, while in public, will be in force at all times. What you do privately is your concern, but always remember you represent your profession and the USSCF.

Breach of these codes may be considered grounds for immediate dismissal from the event at the discretion of the event coordinator or a USSCF executive member.

PARTICIPATION APPLICATION AND SELECTION

General selection process for participation in USSCF sanctioned events require that the following information to be supplied to USSCF prior to participation in the event.

1. Application
2. Current membership in USSCF
3. Current CPR Certificate, Health Care Provider Level
4. Current Curriculum Vitae: Listing: Prior experience in sports chiropractic. List prior experience in the particular sport or event
concerned and responsibilities taken while participating.

5. The applicant is expected to provide for his or her own transportation, room and board at events.

The administration of a USSCF sanctioned event may consist of:

1. Event Coordinator, Director, Chief de Mission - appointed by USSCF
2. Regional Coordinator, if a national event
3. Participating Chiropractors
4. Student Coordinator, if appropriate
5. Participating Students, if appropriate
6. International Doctor participation

SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection criteria for USSCF sanctioned events will differ for each event, due to the variety of responsibilities and liabilities of each sport. Selection of participants will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors and Selection Committee of the USSCF.

The USSCF recognizes that the best care that can be provided for athletes requires a team approach, which may require using several types of health care providers. It is commonly accepted that a combination of chiropractic, medical doctors and other allied health personnel may make up this team. The goal of the Selection Committee is to provide health care that will meet several goals. First is the health and safety of the team. Second the necessity to provide a level of care, which can assist the athlete in the recovery process and attain maximum health so as to compete at their greatest potential.

Objectives:

Criteria for Selection of Medical Personnel to International Teams of USSCF

1. Selection of personnel that are of high quality to care for the athletes and staff at sanctioned events.
2. Provide a fair method of selection.
3. Provide a method in which various qualified personnel may serve.
4. Provide for consistency in treatment of athletes and staff.

General criteria for selection:

1. Geographic location of the event and appropriate licensure.
2. Prior experience in the particular sport.
3. Prior participation in sanctioned events.
4. Level of care provided at past events.

New doctors to the USSCF or a particular sport, regardless of ranking certifications, or prior experience in other sports venues are expected to work in a subordinate with member doctors and those who are more experienced with that particular sport. This status will continue until the national selection committee, event director, regional/state directors feel comfortable with giving the new member doctor additional responsibilities. The new doctor will be directly supervised and evaluated by an experienced doctor and/or the event director.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

The application must be submitted to the Selection Committee prior to the date recommended by the Selection Committee.

The applicant shall submit the following information to the Selection Committee to be considered for the position of Team Doctor.

1. Current curriculum vitae.
2. Copy of current CPR (health care provider) must be current at the time of application and the time of anticipated travel.
3. Copy of current malpractice, with limits of 1,000,000/3,000,000.
4. Request to be Team Doctor for a specific event.
5. A copy of current passport, if necessary.
6. State license.

SELECTION PROCESS:

The Selections Committee of the USSCF will select the medical personnel.

The members of the Selection Committee shall review the information submitted by the applicants.

Each applicant shall be rated according to a blinded review of the application.

Medical Personnel who have provided their own way to a prior international event, outside the U.S. borders, will be given a priority in scheduling shifts. As long as they had a positive review from members of the team.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The Event Coordinator and his/her nominated committee will handle any problems/disputes with the selection process. If the dispute is unresolved, and a complaint is filed with the Chairman of USSCF, then the dispute is to be resolved by the National Executive Committee of USSCF.

DOCTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

TRAVEL TO AND SITE ARRIVAL The field doctor must be able to carry their own luggage and equipment. Bear this in mind when deciding what to travel with. The distance between the car and treatment center area should be considered.

It is the responsibility of the event director to inform the field doctor the expected time of arrival. This should be at least one hour prior to the start of the event. Upon arrival, the field doctor should check in with the event director immediately. They will inform you of your assignment as soon as possible or when the logistics have been completed.

If the field doctor is going to be late, he/she should contact the event director as soon as possible. Remember, these people will be extremely busy prior to the start of and during the event. **LAST MINUTE SURPRISES AND NO SHOWS ARE NOT WELCOME, AND ARE NOT TOLERATED!**

If a venue requires air travel or a lengthy travel distance, you may consider arriving a day or two early to acclimate to the time change and be prepared for the event. Always confirm these plans with the event director prior to confirmation of your travel plans. There may not always be lodging/transportation available for your early arrival.

SITE INSPECTION

Prior to the start of the event, the sports medicine team should inspect the site for potential safety hazards. Emergency evacuation plans should be discussed. If there is a hazard present, it should be removed, rectified, or brought to the attention of the event

director and/or other administrative personnel. Always follow the proper chain of command and be diplomatic!

EMERGENCY CARE

Emergency care goals are to first stabilize the patient and provide basic life support. Staff members who are emergency care certified should be primary care providers in the event of life threatening trauma. If and when paramedic or EMT personnel are available the patient is promptly turned over to them. You may provide data including vitals, history of injury and treatment given if emergency personnel were not available at the time of injury. It is best if this information is written down and given to them. **DO NOT GET IN THEIR WAY!** They are the professionals in this area, let them do their job. **ALL OPEN WOUNDS WILL BE HANDLED WITH GLOVES!**

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Each doctor is responsible for providing their own equipment; are personally responsible for it's care and protection at all times. Individual sports and each event may have specific requirements concerning equipment needs. The following is a generic list of suggested equipment.

1. Portable adjusting table: headrest/face paper and cross-contamination control (antiseptic).
2. Taping equipment: Scissors, tape, adhesive/dehesive sprays, foam, lubricating gel, heel/lace pads.
3. Analgesic and massage creams: cryotherapy sprays can't be taken aboard airplanes.
4. First aid kit, including cross-contamination equipment.
5. Personal water bottle.
6. Physical therapy equipment may or may not be used/available. If you chose to bring yours, assume it will be used by other members of the staff. Therefore adequate cross-contamination measures need to be taken, ie, towels, electrodes, antiseptic.

TREATMENT

Only credentialed athletes, coaches and personnel will be treated. Treatment of athletes includes before, during and after the event. Treatment consists of examination, adjusting, stretching, taping, performing soft tissue work and the administration of palliative modalities, when within the scope of the participating doctor's license. Do not perform any care beyond your state license scope of practice. Duties include recording health histories and treatment given. Each field doctor is responsible for keeping sufficient records on each athlete treated. All athletes will undergo a regional evaluation examination prior to the administration of any treatment. Completed treatment forms will be turned over to the event director when specified.

The field doctor's job is to return the athlete to competition in the safest and most expedient manner. If it is determined the athlete cannot continue to compete, the event coordinator and coach should be informed and the case should be discussed prior to informing the athlete. The field doctor does not have the authority of removing an athlete from competition without prior approval of the event director.

Only staff members selected by the event director or supervising staff are able to treat. Athletes will be directed to the first available doctor, unless the athlete requests a specific doctor.

In sports medicine, as in all other branches of health care, professional confidentiality must be observed. The right to privacy relating to medical advice or treatment must be observed.

DIGNITARIES In the event that a high ranking official or dignitary asks someone other than the event director for assistance, and it is not a bona fide medical emergency the following rules apply:

1. The member will look around for the highest ranking member to handle the situation. Which in most cases will be the event director. The member should indicate that there is a ranking official designated to provide services to dignitaries and go to locate the appropriate person.
2. If the situation is a medical emergency, provide on-site assistance and get further assistance as soon as possible.

MEDIA EXPOSURE

Unless otherwise directed, only the event director or an appointed public information officer will address the media. The USSCF's intent is to present itself as a team. At no time should any member make statements to the media that could be seen as self aggrandizing. Credit for an athlete's performance or recovery from injury should be given to the athlete or the health care team as a whole and not the individual doctor. No information concerning the athlete's condition should be given to the media.

Individual doctors should never be photographed wearing or holding any award or medal won by an athlete. The athlete won the medal/award, not the doctor. Any violation of the etiquette will result in immediate loss of credentials and expulsion from the event.

No member will give out any literature without the express permission of the event director.

Doctor's will not try to recruit any athletes as patients into their private practices.

Doctor's may not supply business cards on their own or upon request by the athletes except on approval of the event director.