



WITHDRAWAL FROM COMPETITION FOR MEDICAL REASONS GUIDELINES

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1. PREAMBLE

In the heat of competition, athletes, coaches, parents, and managers cannot be deemed capable to make an informed consent regarding a return to competition waiver following a medical determination of withdrawal from competition. Participation in competition and/or any FISU Games events is a right that may be withdrawn at any time by the FISU Games Medical Team for specific medical reasons. U SPORTS recognizes the importance of safety in performance and that an athlete that has been withdrawn from competition for medical reasons should not be permitted to return to the field of play until they have received medical clearance from the CMO or designate.

This document addresses the concern of an athlete's withdrawal from competition for reasons of health or injury.

2. STATEMENT

The safety and health of participants at a FISU Games is a high priority for U SPORTS. Safety and health principles apply to the individual in question as well as others who may come in contact with that individual in competition or the Games.

U SPORTS recognizes the importance of safety in performance and that a participant that has been withdrawn from competition for medical reasons should not be permitted to return until they have received medical clearance from the Chief Medical Officer (CMO).

U SPORTS entrusts the assigned Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and/or their designated medical delegate to ensure that any person involved in the FISU Games environment is protected from harm to themselves and others and that the CMO of the FISU Games is ultimately responsible for decisions that may impact on the safety and health of any person affiliated with the FISU Games.

The CMO is entrusted to be the impartial adjudicator in all matters pertaining to the health and safety of participants and their involvement in any event associated with the Games.

U SPORTS will prohibit any participant from competition after being withdrawn from competition by a member of the health care team. The decision of the CMO or designated sport medicine physician is final. No waiver form possibilities will exist at the FISU Games.

3. DEFINITIONS

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) – A medical doctor in good standing with their respective provincial/territorial medical association and Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine (CASEM).

Health Services Team (HST) - A group of medical professionals selected by the CMO and Chief Therapist to deliver the medical support required for Canadian athletes at the FISU Games.

Participant – An athlete, coach, manager, technical support, mission staff, and volunteer who attends a FISU Games.





Play – defined as sport-related competition or practice.

“Withdrawal from Competition” Form – may be electronic or other paper documentation.

“Return to Play” Form – may be electronic or other paper documentation.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF PROCEDURES

The guidelines for “Withdrawal from Competition” and “Return to Play” will follow the most current guidelines established by the Canadian Academy of Sport & Exercise Medicine (CASEM).

U SPORTS is basing its decision on the best available medical advice and will not be liable for any financial damages associated with a “Withdrawal from Competition” or “Return to Play” decision. The CMO has ultimate authority on an athlete’s status as it pertains to “Withdrawal from Competition” or “Return to Competition”.

A. Withdrawal from Competition:

A participant is “Withdrawn from Competition” when an authorized member of the Canadian FISU Health Services Team (HST) officially determines that an athlete is at risk of further injury to the health and/or wellbeing of themselves or others. This can occur at the venue or Canadian health centre/clinic.

The CMO or the designate physician will assess the participant following the injury/condition resulting in the withdrawal and provide the participant with a full explanation of the objective findings that support the need for the participant to remain “Withdrawn from Competition” or be “Returned to Competition”. This will be documented in the athlete chart and EMR with any related investigations and forwarded to the CMO.

Once “Withdrawn from Competition”, the participant may not return until he/she has obtained “Return to Competition” clearance. This status of the athlete will be changed in the EMR and communicated with the athlete, team and CMO.

Absolute indications to remove a participant from competition will include, but are not restricted to, transient mental status impairment (i.e., concussions), visual impairment, contagious skin conditions, infectious disease, cardiopulmonary instability and suspected spinal column injury.

Relative indications for removal from competition are at the discretion of the physician (or therapist in charge in the case of some venues where a physician is not present). These relative indications include, but are not limited to, musculoskeletal injuries in which there is significant risk of further injury to the athlete, suspected fractures and suspected visceral injury.

It is not uncommon for athletes to sustain injuries prior to and during the course of competition. It is equally common that athletes will continue to compete despite these injuries. The intention of those guidelines is not to remove all injured athletes from competition, but rather to remove those athletes from competition that have sustained an injury that poses a significant risk to their immediate, short term and/or long term health or the wellbeing of others





B. Return to Play:

The participant withdrawn from competition must be assessed (or reassessed) by the CMO or a designated sport medicine physician to determine a change of status. This physician provides a medical evaluation based on either a direct assessment or a review of the original “Withdrawn from Competition” decision, to determine if the athlete has a medical condition, poses a risk to others, or is at risk of significant further injury or illness to themselves. This physician would determine if the athlete is able to “Return to Play” or uphold the “Withdrawn from Competition” decision.

A decision allowing a participant to “Return to Competition” will include a review of the original withdrawal decision, presenting status, recent medical treatment, therapy, medication and other interventions. The “Return to Competition” decision must be documented in the EMR by the CMO or a designated sport medicine physician post assessment.

C. Timelines Involved with Return to Competition:

Once a participant is given a full explanation of the decision that they have been “Withdrawn from Competition”, he/she will also obtain notification of the earliest they can request a reassessment of their condition (i.e. in 12 hours, once the bleeding stops, once light exercise does not result in dizziness, etc.) This will be noted in the participant’s medical file and monitored for each subsequent visit to the clinic.

In the case of a diagnosed or suspected concussion, the Canadian FISU HST will adopt the Graduated Return to Sport Strategy developed as part of International Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport at the 5th International Conference on Concussion in Sport held in Berlin, October 2016. CASEM acknowledges this consensus as the most current statement on this topic. For more information on the statement and strategy in question, please follow this link: <http://bjsm.bmj.com/content/early/2017/04/28/bjsports-2017-097699>

In the case of diagnosed or suspected infectious disease, the participant will be permitted to return to competition only once the CMO or designate physician is satisfied that the participant’s condition no longer poses a threat to himself/herself or to any other Games participants within the parameters established and/or recognized by CASEM with matters relating to infectious disease.

