

Bobsleigh CANADA Skeleton

Injured Athletes Care and Travel Guidelines

A. Introduction

Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton strives to provide for our athlete’s medical needs through a comprehensive integrated services program developed in cooperation with our partners: Own The Podium, Canadian Sport Centre Calgary, University of Calgary, Winsport Canada and others. Based upon our needs and available resources, BCS coordinates medical treatment, performance enhancement through strength and conditioning modalities, and supplemental para-medical support.

An athlete’s care while participating with a BCS team at the National or National Development team is paramount. Decisions relating to the care of the athlete while participating on a BCS team will always be made in the best interest of the athlete’s long-term health.

B. Guideline Details

1. Scope

This guideline applies to all athletes of Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton. This guideline principally addresses medical care, support, and authority for athletes injured or affected by a previous injury or condition while travelling with the National or National Development program.

2. Out of Country Medical Insurance

BCS shall be responsible to ensure that all athletes travelling with the National or National Development program are covered through a third party athlete insurance program like the Canadian Athlete Insurance Plan (CAIP) which is inclusive of out of country medical insurance. BCS shall provide coverage at least at the Bronze level. Athletes may purchase a higher level of care at their own cost.

3. Authority

In the event that an athlete is required to be hospitalized or sent home due to an inability to participate, the decision will be made in consultation with the athlete, but will be driven by the Lead Medical Officer of BCS and the lead staff and/or medical providers on site.

- Lead Medical Officer (LMO) – is the designate in Calgary that is qualified to make a decision as to determine the “safe to participate” (STP) or “safe to travel” (STT) ability of the athlete;
- On-site Lead Medical Provider (OSLMP) – if BCS medical staff accompanies the athlete, that person is the OSLMP. If not, the on-site lead contact shall be the head coach. If the team has two or more medical personal, the designation as OSLMP will be determined by those present based upon what is in the athlete’s best interest and the needs of the remainder of the team;
- Local Medical Service Provider (LMSP) – In some cases if there is a significant trauma, the attending Physician maybe be the OSLMP, communicating with the LMO;
- The High Performance Director and/or CEO shall be party to all pertinent discussion and will provide final approval on any financial liabilities forth coming to the association.

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4. Approvals

In all cases, the approval process shall commence with notification of the situation to the High Performance Director or CEO, preferably in writing. The process of approval shall be communicated to the athlete, coach and High Performance Director or CEO:

- Stop an athlete from participating – This decision can be in practice or in competition and is at the discretion of the OSLMS. This decision should be in consultation with the LMO and if necessary the LMSP. This decision must be communicated, preferably in writing, to the High Performance Director or the CEO.
- Safe to travel – If the athlete has been removed from competition, but the injury is not severe enough to have the athlete sent home, and as such will remain with the team, this decision is at the discretion of the LMO in consultation with the OSLMS and if necessary the LMSP. This decision must be communicated, preferably in writing, to the High Performance Director or the CEO.
- Repatriate the Athlete - If the athlete has been removed from competition, and the injury is deemed severe enough to have the athlete sent home, this decision and process are at the discretion of the LMO in consultation with the OSLMS and if necessary the LMSP. This decision must be communicated, preferably in writing, to the High Performance Director or the CEO. The athlete’s designated emergency contact or family member will be contacted and involved in necessary circumstances.

5. Travel Considerations

If it is the decision of the LMO to repatriate the athlete, the decision shall also be made by the LMO as to whether or not the athlete may fly home unaccompanied. Dependent upon the decision of the LMO, the injured athlete may be accompanied by a teammate, medical provider or staff person. In necessary instances this may involve a designated emergency contact or family member.

No athlete will be left alone until they have been placed on the plane. It is the role of the OSLMP or designate, to stay with the injured athlete even if it means they will have to meet up with the team at a later location. The care and supervision of the injured athlete is paramount.

C. Guideline Implementation

The CEO, High Performance Director, Coaching staff and Medical personnel have shared responsibility and accountability to implement and enforce this guideline.

D. Guideline Exceptions and Exclusions

These guidelines are at the discretion of the LMO and the OSLMP, as situational analysis is critical for the care and safety of the athlete.

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