



## **FAQ: GUIDANCE MEDICAL CARE AND COVERAGE FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES AT AWAY EVENTS.**

**1. Does this document create any new obligations of member institutions?**

No. The guidance document does not create any new legislative or policy obligations for membership. Rather, it is intended to remind and clarify for members that there are various and long-existing legislative and/or policy responsibilities related to student-athlete medical care and coverage and they continue to apply regardless of whether events are occurring on campus or at another location. The identification and clarification of these obligations in the guidance document is intended to facilitate institutional focus and compliance which should, arguably, decrease risks for member schools and student-athletes.

**2. Why is the NCAA clarifying these existing legislative requirements at this time?**

The NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports (CSMAS) became aware that primary athletics health care providers were facing challenges related to the interpretation and application of Independent Medical Care (IMC) legislation. Specifically, there were question about whether the requirements of IMC legislation applied in scenarios where the visiting team's primary athletics health care provider did not accompany the visiting team. As CSMAS began to evaluate this issue it identified a broader opportunity to offer clarification on several related health care delivery membership obligations. Consistent with direction from the NCAA Board of Governors and CSMAS, SSI created an internal staff task force to evaluate these issues and craft clear guidance reminding the membership of its obligations related to the health and safety of student-athletes participating in school sponsored athletic events both at home and away.

**3. Are schools still expected to comply with all care and coverage requirements even when faced with limited resources and additional budget restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Yes. Care and coverage requirements do not vary based on the availability of personnel or budget. However, schools have flexibility in terms of how they choose to comply with applicable requirements. As the document explains, schools may elect to send their own medical personnel to away events, coordinate care through the host institution or enlist medical coverage from an independent contractor. Furthermore, schools should evaluate all the medical and legal factors that may impact its ability to comply with legislative policy and other applicable obligations.

**4. Are host schools required to share relevant Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) with visiting schools?**

[The Interassociation Recommendations - Preventing Catastrophic Injury and Death in Collegiate Athletes](#) recommends that schools have EAPs for all venues and that they are properly understood and rehearsed by all relevant event personnel. Communication prior to competition between the host institution and the visiting team may serve to clarify protocols and the availability of necessary supplies and equipment should a student-athlete need medical care in the course of an event, and provides an opportunity for the visiting team athletics staff to garner an understanding of what to anticipate in the case of an emergency at the host institution.

**5. Are host schools required to obtain a consent to treat from visiting student-athletes?**

While student-athlete consent to treat forms are not specifically addressed in existing legislation, athletics department staff are encouraged to work with institutional general counsel and/or other risk management staff to determine if current institutional and/or department protocols adequately consider consent requirements that may arise in connection with treating visiting student-athletes.

**6. Are visiting schools required to share student-athlete medical records with the host institution?**

While the issue of medical records is not specifically addressed in existing legislation, schools are encouraged to confirm that applicable event medical staff will have appropriate access to any medical records that may be necessary for the medical treatment of visiting student-athletes and to consult with institutional general counsel and/or other risk management staff to confirm the protocols that outline these care and coverage expectations adequately contemplate applicable privacy and licensure regulations.

**7. Will host schools be required to report concussions sustained by visiting student-athletes?**

An institution is required to collect and submit data detailing concussion and catastrophic events involving its own student-athletes, whether concussions or catastrophic events occur as part of athletic events played at home or away from campus. Visiting schools have flexibility in terms of how they comply with these requirements and some schools may elect to request reporting support from the host institution, although in most cases, we anticipate such requests will be infrequent. Schools are encouraged to review travel policies and guidelines and travel staffing plans to confirm whether they adequately address these reporting needs and requirements and to proactively communicate and coordinate with the host school to come to an agreement around any delegated responsibilities in the event that a need for reporting assistance is anticipated.

**8. In addition to the primary athletics health care provider, which entities within athletics and the broader campus should be involved in reviewing this guidance?**

This document highlights several existing legislative obligations. Additionally, there are also state and/or federal laws that schools will need to consider when reviewing appropriate policies involving medical care and coverage. To that end, schools are strongly encouraged to consult with institutional legal counsel and/or risk management and other relevant school staff (e.g. AHCA, compliance) to ensure that all aspects of medical management are considered and appropriately addressed.

**9. Who can I contact if I have additional questions?**

Questions can be submitted to the NCAA Sport Science Institute at [ssi@ncaa.org](mailto:ssi@ncaa.org)