



SPORT SCIENCE
INSTITUTE™

Athletics Health Care Administrator Frequently Asked Questions *August 2021*

What is an athletics health care administrator?

The athletics health care administrator, also referred to in this document as the AHCA, is a designated position at each NCAA member school. The designation, mandated by NCAA Independent Medical Care legislation (Division I Constitution 3.2.4.19), requires schools to identify an athletics health care administrator as part of a broader obligation to establish a structure that supports the delivery of independent medical care for college athletes. To view an educational briefing document about the Independent Medical Care legislation, [click here](#).

Who can be designated as an athletics health care administrator?

Schools have flexibility to determine who is designated as the athletics health care administrator. The AHCA designation does not require institutions to hire a new position; the decision about who is designated in this role will depend on the needs, resources, and staffing configurations of each school. An athletic trainer, team physician, senior woman administrator, or faculty athletics representative, are all examples of positions that *could be* designated as the AHCA. The AHCA cannot be a coach. Importantly, the AHCA also does not supersede the authority of the team physician, who by NCAA legislation, “is authorized to oversee the medical services for injuries and illnesses incidental to a student-athlete’s participation in intercollegiate athletics.” To view an educational briefing document with frequently asked questions gathered from the membership about the role of the AHCA and possible designees, [click here](#).

What is the role of the athletics health care administrator?

The AHCA will serve in an administrative capacity that complements the athletics health care team. This designation is not intended to have supervisory authority over primary athletics health care providers (team physicians and athletic trainers) or other medical providers. While primary athletics health care providers will continue to provide health care services for student-athletes and retain unchallengeable autonomous authority to determine medical management and return-to-play decisions, it is recommended that the AHCA be responsible for receiving, disseminating and monitoring health and safety legislation, resources and interassociation recommendations.