



Need for a PAHF Medical Advisory Panel

Situation:

The PAHF is lacking an Advisory Panel for Medical Guidance as well as a thorough and consistent medical program to provide athletes and team officials with high level resources during events. Appointments of medical providers are completed by the PAHF Appointments Committee (AC) without medical representation from a list of physicians that is provided by the PAHF. The challenge with this list is that it is limited due to the availability of the proposed appointment.

Background:

Hockey has progressed over the years with changes to the game that have increased the physical demands with increased training and medical needs to the athletes involved. As the game has changed, the needs of the athletes have increased. It is imperative to ensure that the resources are available to meet the medical needs of these high-level athletes through the event sites, by the medical staff appointed to the event and resources available for high level medical care when the need arises. Guidelines with roles and responsibilities for the event organizer and the medical staff assigned along with required education will provide the consistency at each event to ensure safety for all involved in the event.

Education, support and appointment of Medical Officers is one of the principal objectives, understanding that due to the relevance of health/sport considerations at all levels of performance, this Medical Area should also contemplate and approach other aspects, being responsible of PAHF Medical Guidance.

Assessment:

Currently, PAHF has no formal medical program to guide appointed medical officials at events. There has been inconsistent coverage by assigned medical providers at events due to the lack of guidelines and documented resources. Additionally, due to differing standards within countries throughout the PAHF, medical standards and regulations differ causing varying levels of provided services. PAHF needs to structure and frame a medical area and establish clear objectives for the development of our sport.

Recommendation:

The PAHF create an active Medical Advisory Panel consisting of medical physicians, athletic trainers and medical administrators to develop the roles and responsibilities of the appointed medical officer at any PAHF event. This will include education that all medical officials will complete prior to an appointment: knowledge of PAHF medical guidelines for tournament responsibilities and tasks, WADA Education, knowledge of FIH anti-doping needs at events and support to sport medical requirements for nutrition, injuries, risk factors, and heat advisory health for all team personal. This Panel should also be responsible of PAHF Medical guidance and objectives.



Proposal for Board Action:

- Considerations of PAHF Medical Area and Advisory Panel actual situation.
- Confirm an active Medical Advisory Panel to cover PAHF necessities with a Chair to guide and give final structure to this area.
- Ask NAs to suggest nomination of Doctors, athletic trainers and medical administrators interested to be Panel Members and / or to be added in the list of Medical Officers available for tournaments.
- Development of the Terms of Reference for this Panel.

NOTE:

- FIH Hockey Physicians have been consulted and provided advice: Dr. Michael Green, Dr. Leigh Gordon and Dr. Udo Rolle.
- Different documents have been consulted: FIH Medical Officers Job Description, FIH Medical Manual, others.

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