



**Canada Games
Council**
*Inspiring Dreams and
Building Champions*

**Conseil des Jeux
du Canada**
*Du rêve au
champion*

Canada Games Council Games Policy and Procedures

POLICY NUMBER: #58.001

NAME: Withdrawal from **Competition for Medical Reasons**

FUNCTIONAL UNIT: Medical **Services**

RELEVANT STANDARD: n/a

APPROVED BY: CGC Sport Committee

ORIGINAL APPROVED DATE: 2010.01.11, 2010.12.02

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PREAMBLE

The safety and health of participants at a Canada Games is a high priority for the Canada Games Council.

Participation in competition and/or any Canada Games events is a right provided by the Canada Games Council and may be withdrawn at any time by the Host Medical Team for specific medical reasons.

The Canada Games Council recognizes the importance of safety in performance and that a **participant** that has been withdrawn from competition for medical reasons should not be permitted to return until they have received medical clearance from the Chief Medical Officer or designate.

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy addresses the concern of a participant's withdrawal from competition for reasons of health or injury.

Safety and health principles apply to the **participant** in question as well as others who may come in contact with that **participant** in competition or **within** the Games **environment**.

The Canada Games Council entrusts the assigned Chief Medical Officer or designate to ensure that any **participant** involved in the Games environment is protected from harm to themselves and others.

The Chief Medical Officer or designate is ultimately responsible for decisions that may impact on the safety and health of any **participant** affiliated with the Games.

The Chief Medical Officer or designate 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.

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The Canada Games Council will prohibit any participant from competition after being withdrawn from competition by a member of the **Host Medical Team**. The decision of the Chief Medical Officer or designate is final. No waiver form possibilities will exist at the Canada Games.

STANDARDS

DEFINITIONS

Chief Medical Officer or designate – A medical doctor in good standing with their respective **Provincial/Territorial** medical association and **the** Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine (CASEM) who fulfills the role for a Host Society.

Host Medical Team – A group of local and sponsored medical **personnel** selected by a combination of the Host Society and the Canada Games Council **authorized** to deliver the medical support required for the Games. **Only Host Medical Team personnel may act as first responders in the case of an injury on the field of play.**

Participant – An athlete, coach, manager, technical support, mission staff **or** volunteer who attends a Canada Games.

Competition – defined as sport-related competition or practice. **Should the nature of the withdrawal jeopardize the safety of other participants, the use of the term “competition” may be broadened, at the discretion of the Chief Medical Officer or designate, to include the “Games environment”.**

“Withdrawn from Competition” – defined as the status of a participant once an authorized member of the **Host Medical Team** determines that a participant is at risk of further injury to the health and/or wellbeing of themselves or others.

“Withdrawal from Competition” Form – **provided by the Host Society and** may be **in** electronic or paper format. **Must be completed by the authorized member of the Host Medical Team involved with the initial withdrawal decision.**

“Return to **Competition**” Form – **provided by the Host Society and** may be **in** electronic or paper format. **Must be completed by the Chief Medical Officer or designate in order for a participant to be allowed to return to competition.**

COUNCIL’S ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

The Canada Games Council will make this policy available to all Games participants on its website under the Stakeholder’s Reference Manual section. Copies of the policy in question will also be made available, on request, within the Games’ Village Polyclinic.

PROCEDURES

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

The Canada Games Council will not be liable for any damages associated with a “Withdrawal from Competition” or “Return to **Competition**” decision.

The Chief Medical Officer or designate has ultimate authority on a **participant**'s status as it pertains to **"Withdrawal from Competition"** or **"Return to Competition"**.

Withdrawal from Competition:

A **participant** is "Withdrawn from Competition" when an authorized member of the Host Medical Team determines that a **participant** is at risk of further injury to the health and/or wellbeing of themselves or others. This can occur at the venue or polyclinic.

The Chief Medical Officer or designate 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"**.

Once "Withdrawn from Competition", the participant may not return until he/she has obtained a "Return to Competition" form.

Provincial / Territorial Teams and NSO Technical Representatives are responsible for monitoring participant eligibility based on medical decisions throughout the course of the competition.

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 venue or Polyclinic 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 visceral injury.

Return to Competition:

The **participant withdrawn from competition** must be assessed (or reassessed) by the Chief Medical Officer or designate to determine a change of status. 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.

Withdrawal and Return to Competition Notifications

The "Withdrawal from Competition" form must be completed by the authorized member of the Host Medical Team involved in the initial withdrawal decision.

The "Return to Competition" form must be completed by the Chief Medical Officer or designate.

All forms must be completed immediately following the decision and status change information immediately entered into the Gems.Pro system.

Once status change information has been entered, notifications of "Withdrawals / Returns to Competition" will automatically be sent by email from the Gems.Pro system to both the Canada Games Council and the Provincial / Territorial Team Mission Office email addresses.

Provincial/Territorial Teams will be responsible for managing the communication of the "Withdrawal / Return to Competition" notifications according to their internal Games time communication procedures.

The Canada Games Council staff will be responsible for communicating, by email and phone, the “Withdrawal / Return to Competition” notifications to the appropriate NSO Technical Representatives.

The NSO Technical Representative will be responsible for verifying his/her emails or Games time cell phone for voicemails for any notifications 30 minutes prior to the start of competition.

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 Polyclinic.

For individual sports, should a participant not be cleared for “Return to Competition” prior to 30 minutes of the start of the competition, this will automatically result in a DNS or forfeit of the bout/match/game. For team sports, should a participant not be cleared for “Return to Competition” prior to 30 minutes of the start of the competition, he or she will need to be replaced or removed from the final roster of that particular match/game.

In the case of a diagnosed or suspected concussion, the Host Society will adopt the Graduated Return to Competition Protocol developed as part of the 2008 Zurich Consensus Statement on Concussion in Sport. CASEM acknowledges this consensus as the most current statement on this topic. For more information on the statement and protocol in question, please follow this link:

http://journals.lww.com/cjsportsmed/Fulltext/2009/05000/Consensus_Statement_on_Concussion_in_Sport_3rd.1.aspx.

In the case of diagnosed or suspected infectious disease, the participant will be permitted to return to competition only once the Chief Medical Officer or designate 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.