



**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: Medical – Withdrawal from Play  
FUNCTIONAL UNIT: Medical  
RELEVANT STANDARD: n/a  
APPROVED BY: CGC Sport Committee  
ORIGINAL APPROVED DATE: 2010.01.11, 2010.12.02  
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### **PREAMBLE**

In the heat of competition, athletes, coaches, parents, and managers are often not capable of making an informed consent regarding a return to competition waiver following a medical determination of withdrawal from competition. Participation in competition and/or any Canada Games events is a right provided by the Canada Games Council and may be withdrawn at any time by the Host Medical Team for specific medical reasons.

The Canada Games Council recognizes the importance of safety in performance and that an athlete that has been withdrawn from competition for medical reasons should not be permitted to return to the field of play until they have received medical clearance from the Chief Medical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

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

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The safety and health of participants at a Canada Games is a high priority for the Canada Games Council. Safety and health principles apply to the individual in question as well as others who may come in contact with that individual in competition or the Games.

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**National Partners/ Partenaires nationaux**



The Canada Games Council entrusts the assigned Chief Medical Officer or designate to ensure that any person involved in the Games environment is protected from harm to themselves and others and that the Chief Medical Officer or designate of the Games is ultimately responsible for decisions that may impact on the safety and health of any person 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.

The Canada Games Council will prohibit any participant from competition after being withdrawn from competition by a member of the health care team. The decision of the Chief Medical Officer or designate is final. No waiver from 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 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 professionals selected by a combination of the Host Society and the Canada Games Council (CGC) to deliver the medical support required for the Games.

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

Play – defined as sport-related competition or practice.

“Withdrawal from Competition” Form – may be electronic or other paper documentation.

“Return to Play” Form – may be electronic or other paper documentation.

## **COUNCIL’S ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY**

### **PROCEDURES**

The guidelines for “Withdrawal from Competition” and “Return to Play” will follow the most current guidelines established by the Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine where they exist.

The Canada Games Council is basing its decision on the best available medical advice and will not be liable for any financial damages associated with a “Withdrawal from Competition” or “Return to Play” decision.

The Chief Medical Officer or designate has ultimate authority on an athlete’s status as it pertains to withdrawal from competition or Return to Play.

Withdrawal from Competition:

An athlete is officially “Withdrawn from Competition” when an authorized member of the Host Medical Team officially determines that an athlete 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 athlete presenting health issues comprehensively and discuss the objective findings that support the need for withdrawal from competition with the athlete. This will be documented in the athlete chart with any related investigations.

The “Withdrawal from Competition” form must be completed by the physician or therapist involved in the decision and forwarded to the Chief Medical Officer or designate. The Chief Medical Officer or designate will notify the Games’ Operation Centre, CGC and the appropriate Chef de Mission on a daily basis of such withdrawal decisions.

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.

The participant will be given a full explanation for the decision to remove him/her from competition.

Once removed from play, the athlete may not return to play without a return to play form.

Return to Play:

The athlete must be assessed or reassessed by the Chief Medical Officer or designate to determine a change of status. The Chief Medical Officer or designate provides a medical evaluation based on either a direct assessment or a review of the original “Withdrawn from Competition” decision, to determine if the athlete has a medical condition, poses a risk to others, or is at risk of significant further injury or illness to themselves. The Chief Medical Officer or designate would determine a “Return to Play” or uphold the “Withdrawn from Competition” decision.

A decision allowing an athlete to “Return to Play” could include a review of presenting status and review of recent medical treatment, therapy, medication and other intervention.

The “Return to Play” form must be completed by the Chief Medical Officer or designate post assessment. The Chief Medical Officer or designate will notify the Games’ Operation Centre, CGC and the appropriate Chef de Mission on a daily basis of such reinstatement decisions.