

SPORTS MEDICINE

The Sports Medicine Department including the Sportsmedicine Center is charged with the administration and oversight of healthcare services for the Athletic Department's intercollegiate programs. In addition, the Sportsmedicine Center provides outpatient rehabilitation services to the campus as well as the Greenville community.

Staff consists of professionals in the fields of athletic training and physical therapy. The goal of the Sports Medicine Department is to provide a multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach to athletic healthcare. Working closely with the university's Health Services and numerous medical professionals in the Greenville community, the staff is able to provide the finest in prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services to the over 300 student-athletes it services.

Insurance Coverage

The Athletic Department provides an excess accident insurance policy for all participating student-athletes. This policy covers all excess expenses that may be incurred because of an athletic injury. The injury must occur during a supervised athletic activity and be reported to a member of the Sports Medicine staff for coverage to occur. The Athletic Department Insurance plan works in conjunction with the student-athlete's own personal insurance plan. The Department requires each student-athlete to provide correct and accurate insurance information each year of participation. The Athletic Insurance Plan is administered through the Sports Medicine Department.

Physicals and Medical Clearance

No student-athlete will participate in intercollegiate athletics without an athletic physical exam by the designated Furman University Team physicians. The physical exam must be completed prior to any form of participation. Each coach must be sure that each student-athlete has been medically cleared before they are allowed to participate. The athletic physical exam is not a substitute for the Pre-Admission physical required by the university, nor is this physical a substitute for the athletic physical. Medical clearance involving a student-athlete participating in the Furman University Intercollegiate Athletic program is the responsibility of the designated Furman physicians. A student-athlete has to be cleared by Furman's physicians prior to returning to competition from any injury, illness, or condition.

Patient Confidentiality

An individual health record will be kept on each student-athlete, to include but not limited to health history, informed consent, physical exam, parental consent to treat, treatment records, and appropriate insurance and HIPAA documentation. The Sports Medicine Department is HIPAA compliant. If multiple health records on the same individual are established in separate units of the university's health services, i.e. (Infirmary, Counseling Services), then relevant information will be shared to ensure continuity of care. A student-athlete's health record will not be revealed to any other university personnel or individual outside the university without the appropriate release from the student-athlete. Coaches will be notified per the signed authorization by the student-athlete, of all conditions that pertain to the student-athlete's participation. It is the goal of the Sports Medicine Department to assure continuity of care and to protect the health and safety of the student-athlete, without infringing upon patient rights to privacy and the confidentiality of provider-patient disclosures.

Injury and Illness

It is the student-athlete's responsibility to report all injuries and illnesses to the appropriate member of the Sports Medicine Department assigned to their sport. The Sports Medicine Department cannot not be responsible or address the student' athletes needs if they are not adequately informed.

Coverage Guidelines

The Sports Medicine Department will follow the recommendations of the NATA (National Athletic Trainers' Assoc.), as outlined in the "Appropriate Medical Coverage Recommendation for Intercollegiate Athletics". Coverage will be based on medical criteria (injury rates, risk levels).

Contact sports of higher risk than non-contact sports will have more direct supervised coverage than non-contact sports. In-season sports will have priority in regard, to staffing of away contests verses out-of-season sports. Staffing of practices on campus will be covered by on-site staffing or by radio contact with a 3-4min ETA for response. This meets recommended response times as directed by the NATA. Coverage will not be determined by gender but by risk factor of the sport. Each sport will be assigned a full-time staff member to oversee its care. Sports Medicine staff will travel with contact sports. A certified athletic trainer will staff all home competitions regardless of sport. Sports Medicine facilities will be supervised by a certified athletic trainer and will be available to all student-athletes regardless of sport during operational hours. Visiting teams and athletes will be provided equitable access to healthcare facilities and services. Access to designated team physicians will be available to all teams and student-athletes.

After Hour Emergencies

When the Sportsmedicine facilities are closed and an emergency arises, the student-athlete should call Public Safety for assistance.

Media Releases

Release of a student-athletes' participation and medical status information to the media will be handled by the Sports Information Office. Sports Medicine staff will not deal directly with the media. The Sports Information Office will decide the determination of what is appropriate information for media release after consultation with the Sports Medicine staff, student-athlete and Head Coach.