

APPENDIX 4

MEDICAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

The Medical Services and Facilities provided are to cover medical emergencies and to provide initial intervention in the event of injury to players, officials or spectators. In no way do they replace the access by players, officials or spectators to local medical services to treat injuries, illnesses etc.

The health and welfare of athletes and others attending an event is a primary concern of WGMA/IMHA and thereby of a host. A Local Medical Officer must therefore be appointed to WGMA/IMHA events but other facilities and support are also required as part of the hosting responsibilities.

There is a minimum level of services and facilities which **must** be provided at every event; this is referred to below as level A. **If this level of service is not available the competition should not proceed.** Other highly recommended and preferable levels are also specified in this document.

The Local Organising Committee is responsible for the contacts and arrangement of medical services which should be planned and prepared in consultation with the Local Medical Officer whom the LOC intends to appoint.

There is an irony in providing medical facilities: it is hoped they are not needed at events! But experience indicates that they are inevitably used and are crucial to the welfare of athletes in particular. It is recognised that costs are involved, but the treatment and recovery of an injured athlete is worth that cost.

GUIDELINES

Medical Room

A Medical Room must be provided at the playing venue. It should be located with good access to the Field of Play and other technical areas.

The room should be well lit and lockable. A sink with hot and cold water is required together with soap and towels. Ideally, a toilet should be located in a room off the Medical Room or nearby.

The furniture required is:

- dedicated area and desk for the Local Medical Officer
- chairs
- treatment table
- lockable cupboard.

The **absolute minimum** treatment facilities required (**level A – without which a competition should not proceed**) are:

- stretcher
- stitching materials (at the discretion of the Local Medical Officer)
- splints
- wound-dressings

- gloves
- automatic external defibrillator (AED)
- oxygen and means of administering it
- stethoscope
- a handout providing information about medical support and facilities available.
- sterile/non-sterile bandages (eg elastic bandages), slings, band-aid type dressings, tape

The following are **highly recommended (level B)**:

- basic medicines
- medicines for gastrointestinal disorders
- cold packs
- spinal board
- medical collar
- blood pressure device.
- auriscope
- aspirix (or a suitable equivalent for treating insect bites)
- wheel chairs

Field of Play

First aid materials are required beside each field of play and should be located as centrally as possible in the technical area without interfering with the technical table and team benches.

A member of staff in the pitch management team must be suitably located and equipped to clean the pitch of any blood stains.

Ambulance

It is a level A requirement (i.e. without which a competition should not proceed) to have an ambulance (or similar arranged transport) with paramedics. It must be positioned near the field of play with unobstructed access to the field and exit from the venue.

It is realised that providing an ambulance can incur costs but, again, it must be stressed that the health and perhaps the life of an athlete can be at stake so the cost is justified.

Personnel

A key role is the Local Medical Officer (LMO) appointed by the Local Organising Committee.

The duties of the LMO are described below:

- 1 The LMO is a registered medical practitioner in the country in which the tournament is taking place.
- 2 The LMO is a member of the team of local officials.
- 3 The LMO is directly responsible to the TD. The LMO works in close cooperation with the TD and the Local Organising Committee.

- 4 The Local Organising Committee in liaison with the LMO is responsible for organising and implementing the entire medical facilities available for the duration of the tournament from the arrival of the first participants to departure of the last (this includes Technical Officials).
- 5 The Local Organising Committee (through the LMO) is responsible for ensuring that all necessary medical related facilities are provided and procedures established.
- 6 The LMO is responsible for ensuring the arrangements for hospital, ambulance, specialist care, medical coverage of every game played, sufficient availability of medication and access to these as well as relevant communications.
- 7 The LMO provides support for the TD as required by the TD.

A local doctor must be on duty throughout the competition. It is acceptable for a team of doctors to be rostered to provide this cover.

It is imperative that a local doctor is present one hour before the first match starts until one hour after the last match each day. Without adequate medical facilities in position a competition should not proceed.

Well equipped and experienced first aid people who can work together with the LMO as a team should also be available if possible.

In addition to the Local Medical Officer, it is desirable that physiotherapy services are available for umpires and other officials. It is excellent if this is available throughout the event and located at the venue but a callout service or urgent appointments at a nearby practitioner is acceptable.

Information

Information is also a key part of the service provided by a Local Organising Committee. In consultation with Local Medical Officer, the following information should be compiled:

- location of and services available at hospitals; if necessary a combination of hospitals should be researched to ensure that the full range of facilities potentially required is available. For example, a nearby hospital may be useful and accessible for some services but it may be necessary to travel further for some specialised services
- location of dental services including emergency treatment outside normal hours
- local and opening hours of pharmacies in relation to both the venue and tournament hotel
- telephone numbers and addresses related to the above and to the Local MO.

The liabilities for paying for treatment and services must be set out clearly together with the method of payment and any implications for identification and insurance.

This information should be compiled at least one week before the competition starts. It should be available in a handout for all teams and officials.

Checklist

	Has a budget for medical services covering the requirements in this manual been prepared and accepted by the organising committee?
	Has a qualified doctor been appointed to manage medical services and facilities at the event?
	Has a medical room been arranged at the venue, reasonably near the field of play and equipped as required?
	Has contact been made with local hospitals, alerting them to the event and the nature of possible referral requirements and identifying their facilities?
	Have ambulance services been confirmed?
	Have other support services including pharmacy, physiotherapy and dentists been arranged?
	Has a plan been developed to deal with injuries or illness among event personnel or spectators?
	Have doctors been assigned to deal with on pitch injuries with a schedule such that there will always be a doctor on duty at the venue when matches are played?