

MEDICAL SUBCOMMITTEE: TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Medical Sub-Committee (MEDSCO) has been mandated by International Rugby League to advise on specified medical matters.

2. PURPOSE & OBJECTIVE

- 2.1. To form an expert group to provide recommendations and guidance in specific medical matters as and when deemed necessary following instruction by IRL.
- 2.2. Where relevant, to take a whole of membership approach.
- 2.3. To supply members to a Therapeutic Use Exemptions Committee to service the IRL anti-doping obligations under the WADA Code.
- 2.4. To support IRL Classification Advisory Group, including attending CAG meetings.
- 2.5. At least annually, review Mandatory Medical Equipment and mandatory drugs present for all international rugby league matches to ensure the most up-to-date practices are in use.

3. OPERATING GUIDELINES

- 3.1. MEDSCO will be chaired by the IRL nominated doctor.¹
- 3.2. The IRL shall appoint a secretary to the subcommittee to co-ordinate meetings, circulate agendas, record minutes and tend to any administration arising from the working group's decisions. The secretary shall be a non-voting member.
- 3.3. The subcommittee shall be convened on a case-by-case basis, with each convened subcommittee meeting comprising selected representatives from the MEDSCO Pool. The number of representatives required for each convened meeting will be determined by the MEDSCO Chair.
- 3.4. The MEDSCO Pool is comprised of doctors and nationally qualified physiotherapists.
- 3.5. No convened meeting of MEDSCO shall take place with less than three members of the MEDSCO Pool present, one of whom must be the MEDSCO Chair or his / her designated representative selected from the MEDSCO Pool by the MEDSCO Chair for that purpose.
- 3.6. No convened meeting of MEDSCO that is addressing a subject relating to the very highest level of international rugby league shall be convened without a representative from ARLC and RFL.
- 3.7. Each representative shall each have one vote, although, in the event of a tie, the Chair or his / her designated representative will have the casting vote.
- 3.8. Quorum of meetings will be a simple majority of the representatives invited and who have agreed to attend the meeting.

¹ For the purposes of these terms of reference, a "doctor" shall meet the following criteria:

- (a) be a registered medical professional with a licence to practice; and
- (b) be able to evidence successful completion of an in-date, recognised pitch-side medical care course OR an in-date nationally or internationally recognized resuscitation body's advanced trauma life support certificate AND an in-date nationally or internationally recognized resuscitation body's advanced life support certificate AND recent documented experience of working in an emergency or orthopaedic trauma role.



- 3.9. Meetings will be called by the Chair or MEDSCO secretary, with a notice period of not less than ten working days. Meetings can be convened on shorter notice with unanimous agreement of the representatives invited to attend.
- 3.10. From time to time, and upon invitation by the MEDSCO, other representatives of the IRL, its members, international competition organisers or other experts may attend the committee in a non-voting capacity.
- 3.11. Meetings will take place as and when required, using technology such as video and conference calling.

4. PRINCIPLES

- 4.1. To take a whole of game approach where necessary, respecting demographic and geographical differences as well as the numerous disciplines and variations that make up the sport of rugby league.
- 4.2. Apply professional medical practice and the highest ethical standards to deliberation and recommendations.

5. ORGANISATION

- 5.1. The MEDSCO secretary will be responsible for the organisation and administration of meetings.
- 5.2. Minutes from the meetings shall be taken and circulated to the group in a timely fashion after the meeting.
- 5.3. Presentations and reference papers discussed in a meeting will be circulated immediately following the meeting if not already circulated.
- 5.4. An action log will be created and presented at each meeting to record the progress against identified actions arising from previous meetings.

6. SCOPE

- 6.1. MEDSCO shall conduct its business in line with the IRL constitution and operational rules.
- 6.2. MEDSCO is an advisory body without executive power, unless certain powers are directly delegated to it by the IRL Board.
- 6.3. MEDSCO will limit its work to the specific task instructed by IRL, from time to time and on a case-by-case basis.
- 6.4. The Board shall only consider recommendations from MEDSCO if those recommendations relate to the specific task that the Board has instructed MEDSCO to consider.
- 6.5. The Board shall choose whether to either adopt recommendations without amendment or make such amendments it deems fit.

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