

Proposed amendment to MAAC Bylaw Article XI

Approved by MAAC Council of Presidents on June 26, 2020

ARTICLE XI – HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is the responsibility of each member institution to protect the health of, and provide a safe environment for, each of its participating student-athletes. The MAAC has adopted specific NCAA regulations regarding student athlete welfare, including the concussion protocols, and the athletics health care administrator/independent medical care requirements. *See also Sports Administrative Agreements on various standards of care and prohibitions.*

A. MAAC Reciprocal Medical Coverage - Individual MAAC institutions must meet the following obligations for visiting MAAC athletic teams.

- i. A MAAC member institution must establish an administrative structure that ensures that the primary athletics health care providers (i.e., the team physicians and athletic trainers) have unchallengeable autonomous authority to determine the medical management and return-to-play decisions related to student-athletes.
- ii. A MAAC member institution's policies should provide that any student-athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with concussion must be evaluated by a medical staff member (e.g.; sports medicine staff, team physician) with experience in the evaluation and management of concussions; and, if diagnosed with a concussion, cleared to return to athletics activity only as determined by the team physician or physician's designee.
- iii. A MAAC member institution's policies should provide that medical personnel with training in the diagnosis, treatment and initial management of acute concussion must be on site at the campus or arena of each competition, and available to be contacted at any time via telephone, messaging, email, beeper or other immediate communication means during all practices involving specified contact/collision sports (basketball, equestrian, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, pole vault, rugby, skiing, soccer, wrestling).
- iv. A MAAC member institution must have a properly rehearsed emergency action plan for *all* venues (home and away) in which practices or competitions are conducted and the plan must specifically address medical care related to concussions and catastrophic injuries, including head and neck injuries, cardiac arrest, heat illness and heat stroke, exertional rhabdomyolysis, exertional collapse associated with sickle cell trait, any exertional or nonexertional collapse, asthma, diabetic emergency and mental health emergency.
- v. A MAAC member institution must provide medical care and coverage for visiting student-athletes traveling without institutional medical personnel for all athletically related injuries incurred during intercollegiate sports activities including team travel, competition, practices and conditioning.
- vi. A MAAC institution is required to document all injuries sustained by visiting student-athlete traveling without institutional medical personnel including concussion and catastrophic events and submit such documentation to the visiting institution's Athletic Healthcare Administrator.
- vii. A MAAC institution is required to ensure availability of adequate medical equipment and supplies at an away event will impact a visiting institution's ability to satisfy its medical care obligations.

- viii. A MAAC institution sending an athletic team without medical personnel to a host MAAC institution should consider the types of student-athlete medical records and personal information that may be required at an away event in order to adequately satisfy medical care obligations.
- ix. A MAAC Institution shall certify that student-athletes traveling without medical personnel have appropriate medical coverage for athletic related injuries and the host institution is indemnified against any athletic related injury claim.
- x. The MAAC, in conjunction with the host institution, shall ensure appropriate medical care and the above criteria are met regarding neutral site championship competitions.
- xi. Each MAAC member institution should evaluate their sports medicine staff's ability to provide appropriate medical care to visiting teams.

