

MEDICAL SUBCOMMITTEE: TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Medical Sub-Committee (MEDSCO) has been mandated by International Rugby League to advise on specific medical matters instructed by the Board on a case by case basis.

2. PURPOSE & OBJECTIVE

- (i) To form an expert group to provide recommendations and guidance in specific medical matters on a case-by-case basis following instruction by the Board.
- (ii) Where relevant, to take a whole of membership approach.
- (iii) To supply members to a Therapeutic Use Exemptions Committee to service the IRL anti-doping obligations under the WADA Code.
- (iv) 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

- (i) MEDSCO will be chaired by the IRL nominee.
- (ii) The committee will comprise:
 - One doctor nominated by the IRL (not necessarily from within the sport)
 - One doctor affiliated with each of the ARLC and RFL. These representatives will possess relevant and up-to-date knowledge from the elite professional game
 - One doctor from each of the APRLC and RLEF
 - One doctor or physiotherapist from each of the APRLC and RLEF Affiliate or Observer Members, to ensure that relevant grassroots care is always considered
 - One IRL staff member nominated by the IRL
- (iii) Confederations to undertake their own nomination and selection procedure.
- (iv) Each representative shall each have one vote, although, in the event of a tie, the Chair will have the casting vote.
- (v) Quorum of meetings will be a simple majority of the representatives.
- (vi) Meetings will be called by the Chair, with a notice period of not less than ten working days.
- (vii) The IRL shall also appoint a secretary to the panel 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.
- (viii) 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.
- (ix) Meetings will take place as and when required, using technology such as video and conference calling.

4. PRINCIPLES

- (i) 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.



- (ii) Apply professional medical practice and the highest ethical standards to deliberation and recommendations.

5. ORGANISATION

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

6. SCOPE

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

