

SCA Code of Conduct and Event Guidelines



SPORTS CHIRO
AUSTRALIA

ARTICLE 1 - DUTIES OF CHIROPRACTOR TO AN ATHLETE

1. The chiropractor recognises the multidisciplinary needs of the athlete and collaborates with other health care practitioners to benefit the athlete.
2. Chiropractors are considered to be experts at utilising spinal and peripheral joint adjustments, manipulation, and mobilisation to restore normal joint function and enhance neuromuscular tone. Joint manipulation as a tool for performance enhancement should be used on athletes immediately prior to events only if the chiropractor is familiar with the athlete and has worked with the athlete prior to the event. Exceptions would be: i) if the athlete provides information from his or her treating chiropractor; ii) the athlete has had previous pre-event manipulation or iii) if after careful evaluation the chiropractor in his or her clinical opinion feels that treatment would be indicated. If available consultation with the head medical officer or other members of the support or health care team should be considered.
3. The chiropractor will recognise the responsibility to render health services to any athlete regardless of race, religion, or political belief.
4. The chiropractor will recognise the limitations of his or her expertise, and when indicated, will recommend to an athlete that additional options and services be obtained.
5. The chiropractor will respect an athlete's right to accept or decline care.
6. The right of an athlete to select professional health care, separate or complimentary to chiropractic care shall be recognised.
7. An athlete, having been accepted, should never be abandoned without due regard for the athlete's welfare. Sufficient notice of withdrawal should be given to permit the athlete to secure another practitioner.

8. The chiropractor should neither exaggerate nor minimise the gravity of an athlete's condition. The chiropractor should assure that the athlete, or those persons responsible for the athlete, have knowledge of the athlete's condition so the best interests of the athlete may be served.

ARTICLE 2 - DUTIES OF THE CHIROPRACTOR TO THE PROFESSION

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

1. The chiropractor shall report, without fear or favour, unethical conduct or incompetence, for any reason, on the part of a member of the profession or may assist an athlete to report such matters to those in authority.
2. The chiropractor is aware that sporting events and treatment of elite athletes at times provides opportunity for political posturing or self-promotion. The chiropractor understands that there is no room for this kind of intent at sporting events. Chiropractors like all other members of the sports medicine community are there in the role of serving and caring for the athlete.
3. The conduct of the chiropractor at all times should merit the respect of the public for the profession.
4. The professional reputation of the chiropractor shall be protected by avoiding all situations which could lead to a conflict of interest.
5. Self-discipline for the profession is a privilege to be recognised along with the responsibility to protect that privilege.
6. Chiropractors should continually seek up-to-date knowledge and education, to ensure that the provision of care given to athletes is considered "best practice" at that current time.
7. Chiropractors should display the highest levels of professional and ethical standards when representing Sports Chiro Australia.



CONSULTATION AND EXAMINATION

1. Confidential information derived from an athlete, or any other source, may be divulged only with the consent of the athlete, except to safeguard society or when required by law.
2. The chiropractor will respect the privacy of the athlete.
3. The chiropractor will recommend only those diagnostic procedures deemed necessary to assist in the care of the athlete.
4. Professional responsibility will be recognised in advising the athlete of findings and recommendations.
5. No guarantee of a cure, either by statement or implication, will be given, and an estimate only as to the length of time or number of visits required by a given condition will be offered.
6. Appropriate consent and record keeping of chiropractic treatment shall be carried out at all times.

CONSULTATION

1. A chiropractor shall request the opinion of an appropriate chiropractor or health practitioner acceptable to the athlete when diagnosis or treatment is difficult or obscure, or when the athlete requests it. Having requested the opinion, the chiropractor may make available any relevant information and will clearly indicate whether the colleague is to assume the continuing care of the athlete.
2. The chiropractor shall, when an opinion has been requested by a colleague, report in detail, findings and recommendations to the attending chiropractor or health practitioner, and may outline the opinion to the athlete. Care of the athlete will be continued only at the specific request of the attending chiropractor or health practitioner, and with the consent of the athlete.

CARE OF THE ATHLETE

1. A chiropractor shall co-operate with those individuals who, in the chiropractor, may assist in the most appropriate care of that athlete.
2. A chiropractor will strive to improve the standards of chiropractic services and health care in the community.
3. A chiropractor will strive for excellence when applying chiropractic treatment to any athlete.

ARTICLE 3 - DUTIES OF A CHIROPRACTOR TO SOCIETY

1. The chiropractor will accept full share of the chiropractic profession's responsibility to society in matters relating to spinal and public health, health education, and legislation affecting the health or well being of the citizens of the community.
2. In the interest of providing good and competent chiropractic care, he or she will support the opportunity of colleagues to obtain recognition and health privileges in the community appropriate to their personal and professional qualifications.
3. Chiropractors working in sport will make available, any knowledge acquired through further study or education, for the benefit of all.