



IGF Event Coverage Guidelines for Medical Services

for Golf Events

Version 4 - 2026



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For reference use by event organizers, medical personnel, national federation, and designated IGF representatives only.

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Important Notice

These guidelines are a RECOMMENDATION of best practices and are NOT MANDATORY. They represent minimum standards for medical coverage at golf events. These guidelines are SUBJECT TO and do NOT PREVAIL OVER any applicable local laws, national regulations, or the specific requirements and rules of individual golf event organizers. Each event must be organized in full compliance with local jurisdictional requirements. The International Golf Federation strongly recommends that all event organizers consult with their local medical authorities, public health departments, and legal advisors to ensure full compliance with applicable regulations in their jurisdiction. All medical personnel must maintain confidentiality and comply with ethical standards outlined in the Olympic Movement Medical Code.

Background and Development

The IGF Event Coverage Medical Services Guidelines were first developed following comprehensive consultations with the IGF Medical Committee, senior medical staff and event managers from the igf PROFESSIONAL Members and Delivery Partners including the PGA TOUR, The R&A, DP World Tour, LPGA Tour as well as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Medical and Scientific Commission, and leading golf sport medicine professionals and researchers. These initial guidelines established foundational medical standards for golf events of all scales.

The second edition (2020) incorporated guidance and best practices from the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, expanding coverage to mental health support and athlete safeguarding protocols.

The third edition (2023) substantially expanded the guidelines following consultation with the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games medical experience, integrating lessons learned from large-scale international event operations, and incorporating emerging evidence on environmental health considerations specific to golf.

This fourth edition (2026) has been substantially revised and expanded to reflect:

- Comprehensive integration of the ASOIF (Association of Summer Olympic International Federations) Health Care Guidelines for International Federation Events (2020), ensuring alignment with Olympic movement standards and best practices
- Evolving evidence on athlete mental health, safeguarding, and wellbeing from recent IOC research and guidance (2021-2025)
- Current environmental health challenges including climate change impacts on golf events, extreme weather protocols, air quality management, and altitude considerations for global golf venues
- Enhanced emergency medical response systems incorporating lessons from recent mass-gathering sporting events and advances in emergency medicine
- Comprehensive risk assessment frameworks specifically adapted for golf course environments, including terrain-specific hazards, dispersed participant layouts, and outdoor exposure considerations
- Updated pharmacology and medication management protocols aligned with current WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) standards and modern pharmaceutical best practices
- Integrated mental health crisis intervention procedures and athlete psychological support systems reflecting current sports psychology and psychiatry evidence
- Strengthened athlete safeguarding protocols incorporating international standards for preventing harassment, abuse, and discrimination in sport
- Operational checklists and implementation timelines for golf event organizers of all scales, from small national championships to major international competitions
- Professional communication and coordination frameworks for seamless integration with local medical systems, emergency services, and international medical authorities
- Gender-specific medical considerations and equity in medical services provision across all participant categories
- Digital health integration including telemedicine capabilities, real-time health data management, and enhanced communication systems for medical teams

This comprehensive fourth edition (2026) now serves as an extensive resource for golf event organizers worldwide, medical professionals, and National Federations seeking to establish world-class medical services that prioritize athlete safety, wellbeing, and care across all golf competitions.

Introduction

Golf is a sport played across the world in diverse geographic and climatic locations with courses featuring varying terrain and environmental conditions. Competitive events involve different numbers of participants, ranging from small regional tournaments to large international championships with thousands of spectators and stakeholders.

In all circumstances, event organizers have a fundamental responsibility for the health, safety, and wellbeing of all participants and stakeholders, including athletes, caddies, support staff, media personnel, spectators, volunteers, and course maintenance teams.

The IGF Event Coverage Guidelines for Medical Services are designed to assist event organizers in delivering safe events and establishing evidence-based standards for medical coverage at golf competitions. These guidelines provide a framework based on current scientific evidence and international best practices, while remaining flexible to accommodate the specific characteristics of golf as a sport and the diverse environments in which it is played worldwide.



Purpose and Scope

These guidelines serve multiple purposes:

- Establish minimum recommended standards for medical coverage at golf events
- Provide practical guidance for event medical planning and implementation
- Ensure consistency with international standards while maintaining local adaptability
- Protect the health and safety of all event participants and stakeholders
- Facilitate coordination with local health authorities and emergency services

Scope and Application

These guidelines are applicable to golf events of all scales and types:

- International championships and world ranking events
- Regional and continental championships
- National championships and qualifying events
- Professional and amateur events
- Junior and youth golf events

Key Principles

- Athlete safety and wellbeing are paramount
- Medical care should be evidence-based and follow international standards
- Mental health and athlete safeguarding are integral
- All medical personnel must maintain high professional standards
- Communication and coordination between stakeholders are essential
- Continuous improvement through evaluation and feedback

Medical Requirements Overview

Golf events must be designed with a comprehensive approach to health and safety. The following elements form the foundation of adequate medical coverage:

Core Requirements

Requirement	Purpose
First Aid Services	Immediate response to minor and moderate injuries
Ambulance Services	Emergency transport and advanced life support
Helicopter Services	Emergency transport and life support
Medical Services	Physician oversight and emergency treatment
Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)	Life-saving intervention for cardiac emergencies
Emergency Action Plan	Coordinated response to medical emergencies
Evacuation Plan	Safe removal of people in critical situations
Communication Systems	Coordination between medical team and responders
Medical Plan Document	Comprehensive event-specific medical protocol

Protective Equipment and Preparedness

- Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for medical personnel
- Disease surveillance protocols (e.g., COVID-19, pandemic preparedness)
- Testing capabilities as required by local regulations
- Adequate supplies of essential medications and equipment

Staffing and Roles

An appropriately sized and skilled medical team is essential for safe event operations. The Event Medical Manager (typically a physician/doctor) should oversee planning and implementation of all medical services, and coordinate with all medical and support personnel.

Event Medical Manager Responsibilities

- Oversee planning and delivery of medical services
- Coordinate all medical team members and external providers
- Ensure compliance with local regulations and standards
- Manage medical equipment, supplies, and medications
- Conduct daily briefings and debriefings
- Document all medical incidents and responses
- Liaise with local health authorities and emergency services

Language Requirements

All medical staff should have knowledge of the English language in addition to the local language. This facilitates communication with international participants and medical personnel.

Staffing Levels by Event Type

The following table provides recommended staffing levels based on event type and spectator numbers. These are MINIMUM recommendations and should be adjusted based on risk assessment, local regulations, and specific event characteristics:

Event Type	Expected Attendance	Medical Doctor	Nurses/Paramedics
Small Local	< 1,000	On Call	1-2
Regional/National	1,000-5,000	On Site	2-4
National Championship	5,000-15,000	On Site	4-6
International/Major	15,000-45,000	On Site	8-12

These staffing levels are recommendations based on best practices. National regulations may require greater medical coverage. Risk assessments should always inform final staffing decisions.

Venue Medical Services

Venue Medical Station Requirements

- **Physical Space:** Minimum 30m², or more, dedicated medical facility, climate controlled, secure storage
- **Equipment:** Examination beds, AED, resuscitation equipment, diagnostic tools, ice therapy
- **Medications:** Emergency medications, pain management, allergy treatment, environmental illness supplies
- **Communication:** Dedicated radio/phone system, emergency lines, coordination with ambulance service
- **Staffing:** Physician on-site during all competition and training hours, nurses, paramedics
- **Security:** Controlled access, athlete privacy, medication storage compliance

Field of Play Medical Stations

A number of dedicated Field of Play medical stations should be located:

- In proximity to highest-risk areas (water hazards, elevated terrain)
- With clear visual access to competition areas
- With rapid access pathways and egress routes
- Away from spectator/media congestion
- Protected from weather exposure

Emergency Response System

All golf events must have a comprehensive Emergency Action Plan (EAP) that includes:

- Procedures for recognizing and responding to life-threatening conditions
- Clear communication protocols and chain of command
- Predefined evacuation routes and emergency transport
- Daily scenario training and drills
- Emergency equipment location and accessibility
- Hospital designation and transport procedures
- Mental health crisis protocols
- Post-incident debriefs procedures

Emergency Transport

Emergency medical transport requirements:

- Ambulance(s) on-site with appropriately trained crews
- Access roads clear and accessible for rapid transport
- Direct coordination with local EMS and hospitals
- Helicopter evacuation capability for high-risk events
- Communication equipment for coordination

For more information, please refer to the [IGF Incident Response Guide](#).

Medical Licensing for Visiting clinicians

In advance of any tournament event, the Event Medical Manager must establish whether national licensing or registration requirements apply to visiting health care professionals who intend to practise on site. Licensing rules are determined by the jurisdiction in which the event is held, not by the clinician's country of origin or professional home base, and they vary considerably between countries. The absence of a requirement in one host country does not imply its absence in another, so the position must be confirmed afresh for every event regardless of prior experience at comparable tournaments.

This applies to all clinicians providing care in a professional capacity, including travelling team physicians, physiotherapists, athletic trainers, paramedics, and any locum or contracted practitioners engaged for the event. It applies whether care is delivered in a formal medical facility, at the course or range, or to players, caddies, officials, staff, or spectators. Practising without the legally required authorisation may expose the individual clinician to regulatory sanction or criminal liability, invalidate professional indemnity cover, and create liability for the event organiser.

The Event Medical Manager should begin enquiries well ahead of the event, ideally at the point the venue is confirmed, as registration with a national or regional medical board can take weeks or months and may require notarised or translated documentation. Enquiries should be directed to the relevant national medical, nursing, or allied-health regulator, supplemented where helpful by the host National Federation, the tournament organising body, and the clinician's own indemnity provider. Many jurisdictions operate a temporary or limited registration pathway for visiting practitioners attending a defined sporting event; where such a pathway exists, the medical lead should confirm its scope, its duration, the application lead time, and any conditions attached, such as supervision by a locally licensed practitioner or restriction to treating members of the visiting party only.

The Event Medical Manager is responsible for verifying and recording the licensing status of every clinician in the medical team before the event, including a clear note of which scopes of practice each individual is authorised to perform in the host jurisdiction. Where a required authorisation cannot be obtained in time, the affected clinician should not undertake activities that fall outside what is permitted, and alternative locally licensed cover should be arranged. Documentation confirming each clinician's authorisation should be retained and available on site for the duration of the event.

Particular attention should be paid to the prescribing, possession, and cross-border importation of medications, which is frequently governed by rules separate from clinical licensing and may require additional permits; this is addressed in the section on medical supplies and controlled substances.

Importation Laws – Medication and Medical Equipment

A medication, controlled substance, or piece of equipment that is routine and legal in the team's home country may be restricted, require a permit, or be outright prohibited in the host country. Not following the required importation procedures carries real consequences: confiscation of essential supplies on arrival, fines, denial of entry, and in the case of controlled substances, potential criminal liability, and detention for the carrier. Several countries enforce tight controls on narcotics, psychotropics, and certain prescription drugs, and the rules differ meaningfully even between neighbouring jurisdictions. Because permits and authorizations can take weeks or months to obtain, this clarification must begin well in advance of travel, not in the final logistics push.

What to investigate for the specific host country

- Controlled and scheduled substances (opioids, benzodiazepines, certain stimulants, etc.) — the highest-risk category. Establish whether each item is permitted, what quantity limits apply, and whether an import permit or license from the national drug/health authority is required.
- General prescription medications — some require justification even when not "controlled."
- Quantities — many countries cap the amount of any given drug a team or individual may bring without additional authorization.
- Medical equipment — defibrillators, oxygen cylinders, diagnostic devices, ultrasound, items with lithium batteries, lasers, or radiation-emitting components may need certification, declaration, or a temporary import arrangement.
- Practitioner recognition — whether the team physician's license/credentials are recognized for practicing on-site, which is legally distinct from importation but worth resolving in the same process.

As a general recommendation the following documentation should be considered and prepare

- An itemized inventory listing each item by generic (INN) name, strength, formulation, and quantity.
- A signed letter of medical necessity from the team physician on letterhead.
- Original prescriptions and original packaging for all medications (do not decant into unlabelled containers).
- Import permits or licenses where required by the host authority.
- For equipment crossing borders temporarily, consider an ATA Carnet, which allows duty-free temporary import of professional equipment in participating countries.
- For staff or athletes carrying personal controlled medications within the Schengen Area (which includes Italy), the Schengen Article 75 certificate, issued by the home-country authority, is the standard instrument — note this covers personal supply, not team medical stock, which needs a separate import license.

Designate one responsible person to own this workstream. Build a timeline that works backward from departure with a comfortable margin for permit processing. Verify every specific requirement directly with the host-country authority rather than relying on prior events or second-hand summaries, since drug schedules and rules change. Where importation of a needed item proves impractical, identify a locally licensed supplier or in-country pharmacy/hospital arrangement as a fallback. Finally, keep copies of all permits and

documentation with the shipment and with the carrying individual, and confirm the customs declaration process for the specific port of entry.

Environmental Health Considerations

Key Environmental Risks

- **Heat & Humidity:** Heat stress, dehydration, heat stroke prevention with hydration stations and cooling protocols
- **Cold & Wet:** Hypothermia risk, wind chill, appropriate clothing education, warming facilities
- **Lightning & Weather:** Storm protocols, suspension procedures, spectator safety, emergency shelter
- **Altitude:** Acclimatization guidelines, increased fluids, monitoring for altitude illness
- **Air Quality:** Monitoring air quality index, respiratory protective measures, event modification if needed
- **UV Exposure:** Sunburn and skin cancer prevention, sunscreen provision, hat recommendations

Environmental Monitoring

Event organizers should monitor and communicate:

- Real-time weather conditions and forecasts
- Temperature and humidity levels
- Air quality indices
- UV index levels
- Wind speed and direction

For more information, please refer to the [IGF Air Quality Guidelines](#).

Implementation Checklist

6+ Months Prior to Event

- Identify and recruit a Chief Medical Officer and medical team
- Conduct a preliminary risk assessment of the venue and course
- Establish relationships with local hospital(s) and emergency services
- Establish working relationship with local public health authorities
- Review local medical regulations and licensing requirements
- Begin medical staff recruitment and vetting process
- Develop event-specific medical policies and procedures
- Identify mental health professional and safeguarding officer
- Create preliminary communication protocols

3-4 Months Prior

- Complete full medical team recruitment
- Conduct comprehensive risk assessment with mitigation planning
- Finalize venue medical facility specifications and equipment list
- Arrange pharmacy services and medication procurement
- Begin medical staff training and credential verification
- Establish emergency transport contracts
- Schedule pre-event medical team meetings
- Finalize safeguarding policies and training schedule

1-2 Weeks Prior

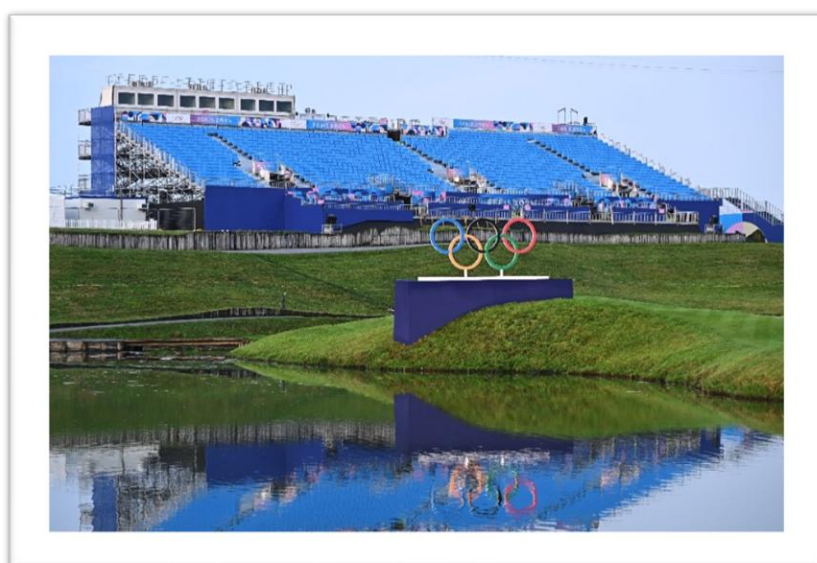
- Complete all equipment setup and safety checks
- Conduct venue tours and medical facility orientation
- Perform communication system tests
- Hold comprehensive medical team briefing
- Practice emergency scenario drills
- Verify all staff credentials and licenses
- Confirm hospital and emergency service coordination
- Brief all event staff on medical procedures

During Event

- Daily medical team briefings each morning
- Daily scenario drills and equipment checks
- Be introduced at the Team Leaders' meeting to answer questions
- Real-time communication and coordination
- Accurate medical encounter documentation
- Incident reporting and review
- Ongoing communication with emergency services
- Mental health support accessibility
- Athlete and staff medical inquiry response
- Confidential and privacy secure documentation of all medical encounters

Post-Event

- Comprehensive medical services report
- Analysis of medical encounters and trends
- Equipment audit and maintenance
- Medication inventory reconciliation
- After-action debriefs with medical team
- Feedback from athletes and staff
- Recommendations for future events
- Documentation and archival of records



Comprehensive Athlete Mental Health Support

Research demonstrates that elite athletes experience mental health challenges at rates equal to or higher than the general population. Mental health conditions including depression, anxiety, attention deficit disorder, and substance use disorders can significantly impact athlete wellbeing, performance, and quality of life. A comprehensive mental health support system during golf events should address prevention, early identification, and crisis intervention.

On-Site Mental Health Services

Event organizers as well as National Federations should ensure that comprehensive mental health support is available to all athletes throughout the event:

On-site Mental health Emergency Action Plan

- Licensed mental health professionals (psychologists, psychiatrists, counsellors) available during the event
- Individual confidential counselling sessions available during practice and competition
- Crisis intervention protocols for acute mental health emergencies
- Group stress management and relaxation sessions
- Coordination with local mental health facilities for ongoing care beyond the event

Remote Mental Health Support

- Mental health helpline staffed by qualified mental health professionals available 24/7 during event
- Virtual counselling options via secure video conference for athletes in village accommodation
- Phone helpline in multiple languages for international athletes

Mental Health Prevention Strategies

Prevention is a critical component of comprehensive mental health support. Event organizers should implement evidence-based prevention strategies to promote psychological resilience and reduce mental health crises:

Psychosocial Support Infrastructure

- Peer support networks pairing experienced athletes with competitors new to international events
- Team staff training on mental health awareness and supporting athlete wellbeing
- Family support resources and communication opportunities during the event
- Spiritual or philosophical counselling options respecting diverse cultural beliefs

Helpline and Remote Support Services

Remote mental health helplines provide athletes with accessible support outside traditional clinical settings:

- Dedicated mental health helpline available 24/7 (call, text, or online chat)
- Staffed by licensed mental health professionals trained in crisis intervention
- Anonymous option to reduce stigma and encourage help-seeking
- Rapid response protocols for identified crises
- Multilingual support for international athletes
- Clear referral pathways to in-person services when needed

Environmental and Lifestyle Supports

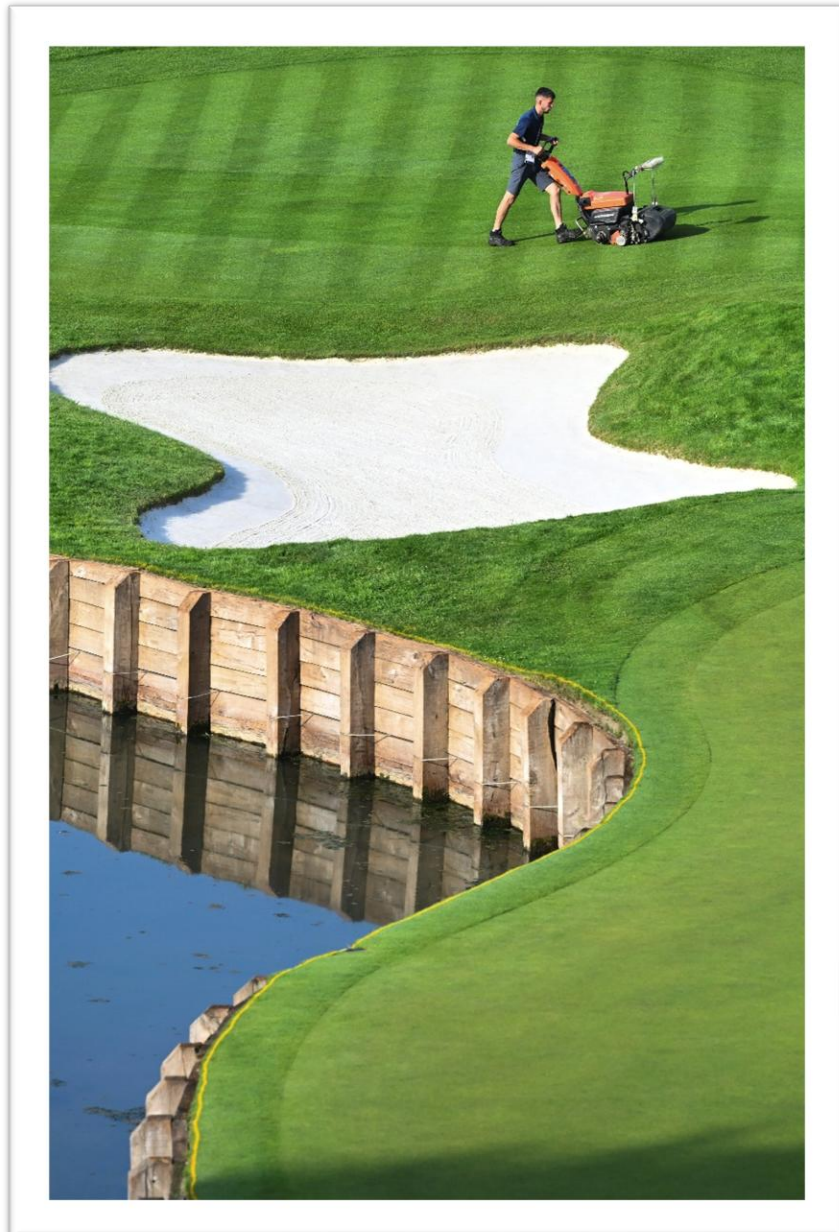
- Sleep hygiene education and optimization of sleep environment
- Nutrition counselling supporting mental health as well as physical performance
- Physical activity and exercise programs beyond competition
- Structured free time and recreational activities
- Mindfulness and meditation programs
- Reduction of environmental stressors where possible

Pre-Event Planning for Mental Health

- Identify and contract with qualified mental health professionals before the event
- Establish referral pathways for athletes requiring mental health support
- Provide pre-event information to athletes about available mental health resources
- Train all event staff to recognize signs of mental health distress or crisis (resource: IOC Sport Mental Health Recognition Tool)
- Develop a Mental health Emergency Action Plans in consultation with mental health professionals
- Ensure confidentiality and privacy protections for all mental health services

Post-Event Follow-Up

- Provide resources for continued mental health support after the event as needed
- Arrange referrals to mental health providers in athletes' home countries
- Post-event mental health screening for athletes with identified concerns
- Contact information for ongoing support services



Mental Health Prevention Strategies in Details

Education and Awareness Programs

Education is fundamental to mental health prevention. Athletes, coaches, and support staff who understand about the importance of mental health are more likely to identify problems early and seek help when needed.

Pre-Event Education for Athletes

- Mental health literacy: Understanding common mental health conditions and their signs
- Stress management and coping strategies for competitive environments
- Strategies for managing performance anxiety and pressure
- Recognition of personal mental health warning signs
- Information about available mental health resources and how to access them
- Reduction of stigma through open discussions about mental health

Education for Team Officials and Support Staff

- Training on recognizing signs of mental health distress in athletes (e.g., IOC SMHRT)
- Guidelines for supporting athletes experiencing mental health challenges
- Information about available resources and appropriate referral procedures
- Training on crisis response and safety protocols
- Understanding of confidentiality and privacy requirements

Resilience and Coping Skills Development

- Mindfulness and meditation programs to reduce anxiety and promote emotional regulation
- Cognitive-behavioural techniques for managing stress and negative thoughts
- Goal setting and achievement strategies to build confidence and motivation
- Social support building and community connection activities
- Sleep optimization programs (sleep is critical for mental health)
- Physical activity and exercise programs with proven mental health benefits

Environmental Supports

- Creating a supportive, inclusive event culture that values athlete wellbeing
- Reducing performance pressure and competitive stress where ethically possible
- Providing access to nature and outdoor spaces for stress reduction
- Organizing social and recreational activities for team bonding
- Ensuring adequate free time and recovery between competitive rounds
- Maintaining communication between athletes and families/support networks

Stigma Reduction

Stigma surrounding mental health remains a major barrier to help-seeking among athletes. Event organizers should actively work to reduce stigma and normalize mental health support:

- Leadership modelling: Event leaders openly discussing their own mental health experiences
- Public awareness campaigns highlighting mental health awareness
- Language choices: Using person-first, non-stigmatizing language when discussing mental health
- Visibility of mental health services and professionals during the event
- Anonymous or confidential access options for athletes uncomfortable seeking visible support



Serenity space and Safe spaces for Athletes

The Serenity Space Initiative

The "Serenity Space" is a dedicated, thoughtfully designed environment where athletes may engage in relaxation, meditation, and mental conditioning practices. This initiative reflects a holistic approach to athlete development, recognizing the integral role of mental well-being in achieving peak performance.

Primary Objectives of the Serenity Space

- To promote and enhance mental well-being, focus, and emotional balance among athletes and support personnel.
- To provide a relaxed setting aimed at alleviating stress and anxiety.
- To support improved athletic performance through structured mental conditioning exercises.
- To increase awareness of the vital role mental health plays in the overall development and success of golfers.
- To offer targeted support for mental health and emotional resilience during the championships.
- To implement and evaluate a mental wellness intervention that will inform and shape future programming for upcoming championships.

Design and Features of the Serenity Space

The Serenity Space should be thoughtfully designed to create a calm, welcoming environment conducive to relaxation and mental practice:

Physical Environment

- Quiet, private location removed from competitive areas and high-traffic zones
- Comfortable seating and lounging options (chairs, cushions, yoga mats)
- Soft, calming lighting (natural light, when possible, warm artificial lighting)
- Soothing background sounds (nature sounds, soft music) or silence per preference
- Climate control for comfort (appropriate temperature, air quality)
- Water features or access to fresh water for hydration
- Natural elements (plants, outdoor views, nature imagery)
- Minimal technological distractions (phones off, no social media access)

Services and Activities Offered

- Guided meditation and mindfulness sessions led by trained instructors
 - Mental imagery and visualization exercises for performance enhancement
 - Breathing exercises and relaxation techniques
 - Yoga and stretching programs
 - Journaling and reflection activities
 - Quiet individual reflection time without structured guidance
-

- Consultations with sports psychologists or mental health professionals
- Individual or small group mental conditioning sessions
- Consider strategically timed sessions with therapy puppies

Staffing and Professional Support

- Sports psychologist or mental health professional overseeing the space
- Trained facilitators and instructors leading relaxation and mindfulness sessions
- Available but non-intrusive staff to support athlete needs
- Clear protocols for escalating concerns to medical or mental health professionals

Equivalent Safe Spaces for Other Golf Events

While the comprehensive Serenity Space may be most feasible for large international championships, event organizers of smaller or regional events should consider establishing equivalent safe spaces for athlete mental health support. These adapted spaces may have fewer resources but should maintain the core principles: a dedicated, calm environment where athletes can access mental health support, relaxation, and mental conditioning activities.

Adaptations for Different Event Sizes

Event Size	Safe Space Recommendations
Large International (WATC, World Championships)	Full Serenity Space with dedicated staff, multiple services, and ongoing programming
Regional/National Championships	Dedicated quiet room with basic meditation/relaxation services (music, guided meditation recordings), yoga mats/cushions, healthy snacks, access to mental health professional by appointment
Small Local Events	Quiet accessible space (clubhouse room) with relaxation resources (music, guided meditation recordings), yoga mats/cushions, healthy snacks, mental health professional contact information available

Implementation Considerations

- Serenity Space location should be easily accessible to all athletes
- Clear signage and communication about space availability and programming
- Privacy and confidentiality protections for athletes using the space
- Voluntary participation—no pressure or expectation that athletes must use the space
- Diverse programming to accommodate different preferences and needs
- Cultural sensitivity and adaptation to local contexts and athlete preferences
- Integration with overall mental health services and referral pathways
- Post-event evaluation of effectiveness and recommendations for future events

The Serenity Space initiative underscores the IGF's commitment to fostering a supportive, inclusive, and health-conscious event environment that prioritizes the comprehensive well-being of all participants. Event organizers are encouraged to implement similar spaces adapted to their event size and resources.

Athlete Mental Health Education

Mental health education is a cornerstone of mental health promotion and prevention. Comprehensive education programs should be provided to athletes, team officials, and event staff before and during the event.

Pre-Event Educational Content

For Athletes

- Basics of mental health: Understanding common mental health conditions (anxiety, depression, stress)
- Recognition of personal mental health warning signs and symptoms
- Available mental health resources and how to access them confidentially
- Stigma reduction and normalization of mental health support
- Stress management and coping strategies specific to competitive golf
- Sleep, nutrition, and exercise as foundations for mental health
- How to support teammates or other athletes experiencing mental health challenges

For Team Officials and Coaches

- Recognition of mental health symptoms in athletes under their supervision
- Strategies for supporting athletes while respecting professional boundaries
- Appropriate referral procedures to mental health professionals
- Understanding of mental health crises and appropriate responses
- Confidentiality and privacy protections
- Creating a supportive team environment that values mental health

For Event Staff and Volunteers

- Recognizing signs of mental health distress in athletes and staff
- Basic mental health first aid for mental health crises
- Information about available resources and proper referral procedures
- Maintaining confidentiality and supporting athlete dignity

Format and Delivery Methods

- Pre-event webinars and online training modules
- In-person orientation sessions held in event village or team headquarters
- Printed educational materials and information cards
- Information sessions or group discussions during the event
- One-on-one consultations with mental health professionals
- Digital resources (website, app, online forums) providing ongoing access to information

Mental Health Emergency Plan

A Mental Health Emergency Action Plan (MHEAP) provides clear protocols for identifying, responding to, and managing mental health crises during golf events. This plan should be developed before the event with input from mental health professionals and integrated with overall medical emergency planning. The following guidance is based on the International Olympic Committee Mental Health Guide and best practices in sports mental health.

Definitions of Mental Health Emergencies

Acute Mental Health Crisis

A situation in which an athlete is experiencing acute psychological distress requiring immediate intervention. Examples include acute anxiety attacks, suicidal thoughts or behaviours, acute psychotic symptoms, severe panic attack, or severe emotional dysregulation.

Mental Health Concerns

Situations in which an athlete shows signs of psychological distress or mental health concerns requiring evaluation by a mental health professional but not necessarily constituting an acute emergency. Examples include depression, anxiety, difficulty sleeping, or withdrawal from activities.

Pre-Event Planning for Mental Health Emergencies

- Identify and contract with mental health professionals (psychologists, psychiatrists, counsellors) available during the event
- Establish crisis response protocols with clear roles and responsibilities
- Identify local hospital(s) or psychiatric facilities available for emergency mental health care
- Train all event staff on recognizing signs of mental health crisis
- Develop communication protocols for reporting mental health concerns
- Establish suicide prevention protocols including means restriction and safety planning
- Create emergency mental health helpline with crisis-trained staff
- Develop protocols for involving family members or emergency contacts when appropriate
- Ensure confidentiality and privacy protections throughout

Identifying Mental Health Concerns

Warning Signs That May Indicate Mental Health Crisis

- Suicidal thoughts, statements about wanting to die or expressing hopelessness
- Homicidal thoughts or threats toward others
- Self-harm behaviour or deliberate injury

- Acute loss of contact with reality (hallucinations, delusions)
- Severe behavioural changes or personality shifts
- Inability to care for self (hygiene, nutrition)
- Severe panic or anxiety attacks
- Extreme agitation or aggression
- Substance use or intoxication
- Social isolation or withdrawal from activities and people

Who Should Report Concerns

Any person who observes signs of mental health concern should report to:

- IGF Medical Delegate or CMO
- Event Mental Health Officer or designated Mental Health Liaison
- Team Physician or Medical Director
- Team Coach or Official
- Event Staff Member or Volunteer (who can relay to appropriate personnel)

Immediate Response Protocol

Upon Report of Mental Health Concern

- Ensure immediate safety: Remove athlete from competitive environment if necessary
- Notify Event Mental Health Officer and Medical Director immediately
- Assess urgency: Is this an immediate life-threatening emergency?
- For acute emergencies: Call emergency services and provide information about local psychiatric facilities
- For less acute concerns: Schedule immediate evaluation by mental health professional
- Ensure confidentiality: Limit discussion to necessary personnel only
- Document the concern and response in secure medical records

Suicide Risk Assessment and Intervention

If an athlete expresses suicidal thoughts or intent:

- Take seriously and do not dismiss or minimize
- Remove athlete from immediate competitive environment to safe location
- Notify Event Mental Health Officer and Medical Director immediately
- Conduct suicide risk assessment with trained mental health professional
- Implement safety protocols: Ensure athlete is never left alone
- Remove access to means of harm (medications, weapons, etc.)
- Notify emergency services if imminent risk is identified
- Contact family/emergency contact as appropriate and with athlete consent when possible
- Arrange transfer to psychiatric facility for higher level of care if needed
- Coordinate ongoing care and follow-up support

Communication and Coordination

Internal Communication

- Clear chain of command for mental health crisis reporting
- Regular communication between Event Mental Health Officer, Medical Director, and event management
- Coordination with athlete's team physician and coaching staff
- Communication with family/emergency contacts (with athlete consent)

External Coordination

- Pre-established relationships with local psychiatric services and hospitals
- Clear protocols for emergency services notification and coordination
- Information sharing with local mental health professionals assuming ongoing care

Documentation and Follow-Up

Documentation Requirements

- Detailed documentation of mental health concern and circumstances
- Assessment findings and interventions provided
- Disposition (returned to competition, referred for care, transported to facility)
- All documentation kept confidential and secure
- Compliance with applicable privacy and medical record regulations

Post-Event Follow-Up

- Contact with athlete to assess current status (if appropriate and safe)
- Arrangement of continued mental health care in athlete's home country
- Information provided to family members or designated contacts
- Review of event mental health response and recommendations for improvements

Staff Training Requirements

All event staff and personnel should receive training on mental health emergency recognition and response before the event:

- Mental health literacy and common mental health conditions
- Recognition of mental health warning signs and crisis indicators
- Appropriate responding to athlete in distress (compassionate, non-judgmental)
- Mental Health Emergency Action Plan protocols and procedures
- Proper documentation and confidentiality requirements
- Resources available for mental health support and crisis intervention
- Psychological first aid techniques
- Self-care for staff members supporting athletes in crisis

Comprehensive Athlete Safeguarding

Safeguarding is the fundamental responsibility of event organizers to protect all participants from harassment and abuse. In line with the core principles of the International Golf Federation, every individual involved in golf—whether they are players, coaches, officials, staff, or volunteers—has an unequivocal right to dignity, safety, and protection. The well-being of all members of the golf community, with particular attention to children and vulnerable adults, is the top priority.

IGF Safeguarding Framework and Principles

The International Golf Federation has established comprehensive safeguarding policies aligned with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Framework for Safeguarding Athletes and Other Participants from Harassment and Abuse in Sport. This alignment ensures that golf events meet the highest international standards for participant protection.

Fundamental Safeguarding Principles

- Every participant has an indisputable right to dignity, safety, and psychological peace
- No form of harassment, abuse, or misconduct is acceptable in golf
- Special attention must be given to protecting children and vulnerable adults
- A supportive, inclusive, and health-conscious environment is essential
- Safeguarding is the responsibility of all individuals involved in the sport
- Transparency and accountability in safeguarding processes
- Respect for confidentiality and privacy of individuals reporting concerns

IGF Safeguarding Code of Conduct

The International Golf Federation has developed a comprehensive Safeguarding Code of Conduct that sets clear standards of behaviours to protect the rights, wellbeing, and dignity of all participants. This Code outlines responsibilities of athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and organizers to maintain professional boundaries, prevent harassment and abuse, and foster a positive sporting culture.

Key Components of the Code of Conduct

- Professional boundaries in all relationships (athletes, coaches, officials, support staff)
- Prevention of harassment and abuse in all forms
- Appropriate communication and conduct standards
- Guidelines for travel, accommodation, and athlete care
- Clear consequences for violations of the Code
- Support and resources for individuals who report concerns

Safeguarding Best practice

Event organizers should implement the following best practices to create a safe and supportive environment for all participants:

Pre-Event Planning and Preparation

Designation of Safeguarding Officer

- Appoint a qualified Safeguarding Officer before the event
- Safeguarding Officer should have training in safeguarding principles and investigation procedures
- Ensure Safeguarding Officer has adequate time and resources to fulfil responsibilities
- Safeguarding Officer should be accessible to all participants throughout the event
- Contact information for Safeguarding Officer widely distributed to all stakeholders

Policy Development and Communication

- Develop event-specific safeguarding policy aligned with IGF standards and local laws
- Communicate safeguarding policy to all participants before the event
- Distribute Code of Conduct to athletes, coaches, officials, and staff
- Ensure all participants acknowledge understanding and agreement with safeguarding policies
- Provide safeguarding orientation during event check-in

Risk Assessment for Safeguarding

- Conduct safeguarding-specific risk assessment identifying potential discriminations
- Assess risks related to accommodation, transportation, training facilities
- Evaluate supervision ratios and monitoring capabilities
- Identify particularly vulnerable participants (young athletes, athletes with a disability)
- Develop mitigation strategies for identified risks

On-Site Safeguarding Implementation

Appropriate Supervision and Monitoring

- Ensure appropriate adult-to-athlete ratios based on age and vulnerability
- Maintain visibility and accountability in all areas where athletes gather
- Avoid one-on-one, isolated situations between adults and vulnerable participants
- Establish clear protocols for overnight accommodation supervision
- Monitor use of alcohol and substances in accordance with event policies

Physical and Emotional Boundaries

- Establish clear guidelines on appropriate physical contact (e.g., coaching techniques)
 - Require consent before any medical examination or physical treatment
 - Ensure privacy during medical and therapeutic interventions
-

- Respect personal space and emotional boundaries of all participants
- Train staff on recognizing and responding to boundary violations

Communication Safeguards

- Establish appropriate communication channels between adults and participants
- Avoid private, unmonitored communication with vulnerable individuals
- Monitor social media interactions and enforce appropriate online conduct
- Establish protocols for confidential conversations (with safeguarding considerations)
- Document all significant communications regarding safeguarding concerns

Safe Spaces and Reporting Access

- Establish confidential space where athletes can report concerns safely
- Ensure reporting mechanisms are accessible to all participants (multiple languages if needed)
- Provide multiple reporting options (in-person, phone, online, anonymous)
- Post clear signage with Safeguarding Officer contact information throughout the venue
- Ensure athletes know they can report concerns to trusted adults (coaches, medical staff, etc.)



Safeguarding Reporting and Whistleblower Procedures

Clear, accessible reporting procedures are essential for safeguarding. Event organizers must ensure that all participants know how to report concerns and feel safe doing so.

Reporting Procedures for Event-Level Concerns

Internal Event Reporting

- Athlete or participant identifies a safeguarding concern
- Concern is reported to Event Safeguarding Officer (in person, by phone, email, or written)
- Safeguarding Officer documents the concern in detail, maintaining confidentiality
- Safeguarding Officer conducts preliminary assessment of the concern
- Event Medical Manager and/or Event Director are notified as appropriate
- Response plan is developed based on severity and nature of concern
- Reporting individual is informed of next steps (maintaining confidentiality)
- Documentation is maintained in secure, confidential files

Immediate Safety Concerns

If an individual is in immediate danger or at risk of serious harm, emergency services should be contacted immediately. Do not delay emergency response to follow reporting procedures.

- Response to immediate safety concerns should include:
- Immediate notification to emergency services (police, medical, etc.)
- Separation of alleged perpetrator from potential victims if safe to do so
- Preservation of evidence and documentation
- Support and medical care for affected individual(s)
- Notification to event leadership and IGF Safeguarding Officer

Reporting to IGF Safeguarding Office

For concerns that cannot be resolved at the event level, or for concerns about event personnel or organizational issues, participants can report directly to the IGF Safeguarding Office.

IGF Safeguarding Officer Contact Information

- Email: Safeguarding@igfmail.org
- Individuals should provide detailed information about the concern, including:
 - - Nature of the concern and specific incident(s)
 - - Individuals involved (reporter, subject of concern, witnesses)
 - - Dates, times, and locations of incidents
 - - Any actions already taken in response to the concern
 - - Desired outcome or resolution

IGF Safeguarding Investigation Process

- IGF Safeguarding Officer acknowledges receipt of report
- Initial assessment determines if matter requires investigation
- Formal investigation conducted if appropriate
- Parties involved are notified and given opportunity to respond
- Findings are documented and communicated to relevant parties
- Appropriate actions taken based on investigation results
- Confidentiality maintained throughout process

Anonymous and Confidential Whistleblower Reporting

The IGF recognizes that some individuals may be reluctant to report concerns through official channels due to fear of retaliation or stigma. Anonymous reporting mechanisms provide an alternative pathway for reporting safeguarding concerns while protecting the reporter's identity.

Anonymous Whistleblower Reporting Options

- Third-party anonymous reporting platforms may be available (to be configured by event organizer)
- Anonymous email reporting to generic safeguarding inbox (reported matter investigated but reporter identity withheld)
- Anonymous phone hotline (if available in jurisdiction)
- Written anonymous reports delivered in sealed envelopes to Safeguarding Officer

Protections for Whistleblowers

- Retaliation against anyone reporting safeguarding concerns is strictly prohibited
- Reporter identity protected to the maximum extent permitted by law and investigation requirements
- No adverse consequences for good-faith reporting, even if investigation determines concern unfounded
- Support and resources offered to reporter during and after investigation
- Clear communication that reporter will not be penalized for coming forward

Event organizers should widely publicize anonymous reporting options and confidentiality protections to encourage participants to report concerns. Poster signage should be prominently displayed indicating anonymous reporting options, especially in accommodation areas, medical facilities, and athlete spaces.

Safeguarding Training Requirement

All individuals working at golf events have a responsibility to understand safeguarding principles and to recognize and appropriately respond to safeguarding concerns. Comprehensive training ensures that all personnel are equipped to identify and address safeguarding issues.

Trauma- and Violence-Informed Skills Training

Mandatory for Safeguarding Officer and Mental Health Staff

The Safeguarding Officer and all mental health professionals working at the event must receive training in trauma- and violence-informed approaches. This specialized training enables staff to:

- Recognize signs and impacts of trauma, abuse, and violence
- Understand the neurobiological effects of trauma on behaviour and decision-making
- Conduct interviews with trauma survivors in ways that are safe and non-retraumatizing
- Recognize secondary trauma and compassion fatigue in colleagues
- Implement trauma-informed policies and procedures
- Provide appropriate support and referrals to trauma survivors
- Understand power dynamics and vulnerability in safeguarding contexts

Training Content for Trauma- and Violence-Informed Practice

- Understanding trauma: definition, types, and prevalence
- Neurobiological effects of trauma on brain and behaviour
- Recognition of trauma symptoms and responses (including complex reactions)
- Trauma-informed communication and interview techniques
- Safety and empowerment principles in supporting trauma survivors
- Recognizing and addressing vicarious trauma in staff
- Legal and ethical requirements in trauma situations
- Self-care and professional support for trauma-exposed staff

Mandatory Safeguarding Training for All Event Personnel

Pre-Event Training Requirements

All individuals working at golf events must complete basic safeguarding training before the event begins, including:

- Safeguarding principles and the event's safeguarding policy
 - Recognition of signs of abuse, harassment, and misconduct
 - Appropriate conduct and professional boundaries
 - Reporting procedures and who to contact with concerns
-

- Confidentiality and privacy requirements
- Support available to individuals who report concerns
- Specific safeguarding risks at golf events (e.g., one-on-one coaching)
- Child protection principles if young athletes are participating

Personnel Requiring Safeguarding Training

- Medical staff (doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, mental health professionals)
- Coaching staff and technical officials
- Event management and administrative personnel
- Security personnel and venue staff
- Volunteers and temporary staff
- Media and broadcast personnel
- Accommodation and catering staff

Training for Visiting National Federation Personnel

Mandatory Requirements

Event organizers should require that all visiting National Federation coaches, officials, and medical personnel complete safeguarding training BEFORE participation in the event. This applies to all personnel regardless of their experience or previous event participation.

Visiting personnel should be required to:

- Complete the IGF Safeguarding in Sports E-Learning Course (Foundation Level) before the event
- Acknowledge understanding and acceptance of the event's Safeguarding Code of Conduct
- Participate in event-specific safeguarding orientation upon arrival
- Confirm they have no disciplinary history related to safeguarding issues
- Agree to comply with all safeguarding policies and procedures during the event

Training Verification and Documentation

- Event organizers must verify that all visiting personnel have completed required training
- Certification of training completion should be submitted before the event
- Event check-in should include brief safeguarding orientation and confirmation of understanding
- Personnel who have not completed training should not be permitted to participate
- Exceptions may only be approved by Event Medical Manager and Safeguarding Officer

IGF Safeguarding Resources and e-learning Platform

IGF Safeguarding in Sports E-Learning Platform

The International Golf Federation, in collaboration with The R&A, UNICEF (International Safeguards for Children in Sport), and the Open University, has developed a comprehensive Safeguarding in Sports E-Learning Platform. This platform provides evidence-based training on safeguarding principles and practical strategies for implementing safeguarding measures in golf events and organizations.

Platform Overview

- Three comprehensive online courses available to all in the sporting community
- Courses originally developed by FIFA and adapted for multi-sport application
- Enhanced through collaboration with International Federations and Sports Organizations
- Suitable for athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, and volunteers
- Self-paced learning with flexible scheduling
- Certificate of completion upon successful course completion

Available Courses

- Foundation Level: Introduction to safeguarding principles and basic recognition (recommended for all personnel)
- Intermediate Level: Detailed safeguarding policies, procedures, and investigation (recommended for officials and leadership)
- Advanced Level: Safeguarding leadership and organizational implementation (recommended for federation leadership)

Course Access and Registration

- Platform accessible [HERE](#).
- Free access for all individuals in the golfing community
- Registration guide available from IGF: "Safeguarding in Sport E-Learning Platform Registration Guide"
- Registration questions should be directed to IGF at info@igfmail.org
- Event organizers should require visiting personnel to register and complete courses before the event

IGF Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct

The IGF has published comprehensive safeguarding documentation available to all event organizers and National Federations:

Key IGF Documents

- IGF Safeguarding Code of Conduct (2025): Sets standards for all participants in IGF events
- IGF Policies and Charters: Comprehensive safeguarding policy framework
- IOC Framework for Safeguarding: International standards aligned with Olympic principles
- IOC Safeguarding Toolkit: Resources for developing organizational safeguarding policies

Document Access

All IGF safeguarding documents are available [HERE](#).



Event risk Assessment

For IGF events, in collaboration with the IGF medical delegate and/or CMO a comprehensive risk assessment is essential for identifying potential medical hazards and implementing appropriate mitigation strategies. Risk assessment should be completed at least three months prior to the event.

Risk Assessment Framework

Risks should be evaluated using two key dimensions:

- **LIKELIHOOD:** How probable is this risk to occur?
- **SEVERITY:** What is the potential impact if this risk occurs?

Risk Mitigation Strategies

- Identify all hazards specific to the venue and competition
- Assess the likelihood and severity of each identified risk
- Develop specific mitigation strategies for high-priority risks
- Implement mitigation strategies before the event begins
- Test and rehearse emergency procedures
- Review and update the risk assessment throughout the planning process

Comprehensive Risk Assessment

A comprehensive sport medical risk assessment should be carried out for all golf events. This exercise highlights specific areas of health risk and stratifies these risks using a 5×5 matrix.

- Heat stress and dehydration in outdoor conditions
- Weather-related injuries (lightning, hypothermia)
- Course terrain hazards and falls
- Musculoskeletal injuries from repetitive motion
- Eye injuries from golf balls or clubs
- Altitude-related issues at high-elevation courses
- Air quality and respiratory concerns
- Insect-borne illnesses in certain regions

Risk Assessment Matrix

The 5×5 risk assessment matrix is used to:

- Identify potential health risks specific to the event
- Stratify risks by likelihood (1-5) and consequence (1-5)
- Calculate risk scores (likelihood × consequence)
- Determine risk levels: Green (1-3), Yellow (4-6), Orange (8-12), Red (15+)
- Develop targeted mitigation strategies
- Allocate medical resources appropriately

Risk Severity Matrix

Likelihood

Almost Certain 5	Moderate	High	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme
Likely 4	Moderate	Moderate	High	Extreme	Extreme
Possible 3	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	Extreme
Unlikely 2	Low	Low	Moderate	High	High
Rare 1	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
	1	2	3	4	5
	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Critical

Consequence

Tropical and Hot Weather Conditions

Golf events in tropical and hot climates present specific medical challenges due to extreme temperatures, humidity, solar radiation, and related environmental factors.

Heat-Related Illness: Risk and Prevention

Heat-related illnesses (heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heat stroke) represent significant risks in tropical and hot weather environments. Heat stroke is a medical emergency that can result in permanent disability or death.

Prevention Strategies

- Continuous environmental monitoring (temperature, humidity, wet bulb globe temperature)
- Mandatory hydration stations throughout the course (water and electrolyte drinks)
- Cool vests and cooling towels available for athletes during competition
- Frequent rest breaks in shaded areas
- Lightweight, light-coloured, breathable clothing recommendations
- Timing adjustments: earlier start times or split-field formats to minimize peak heat exposure
- Education for athletes on acclimatization (7-14 days recommended)
- Individual medical monitoring, particularly for older athletes or those with cardiovascular risk factors

Infectious Diseases

Tropical regions may have endemic infectious diseases including malaria, dengue fever, zika virus, and others.

- Pre-event briefing for international participants regarding endemic diseases
- Information on appropriate prophylaxis and prevention measures
- Diagnostic capability for common tropical diseases

For more information, please refer to [IGF Extreme Heat Guidelines](#).

Cold Weather and Local environmental Conditions

Golf events in cold climates, high altitudes, or unusual environmental conditions require adapted medical protocols.

Cold Weather Hazards

Hypothermia and Frostbite

Uncontrolled body heat loss can lead to hypothermia and frostbite. Both are medical emergencies.

- Prevention through appropriate layered clothing recommendations
- Frequent monitoring of athletes for signs of cold exposure
- Access to warm shelters and warm beverages

High Altitude Considerations

Events at high altitude present specific challenges due to reduced oxygen availability.

- Pre-event acclimatization planning (ideally 2-3 weeks at altitude)
- Oxygen availability at medical facilities
- Recognition and treatment protocols for acute mountain sickness

Safety and Well-being of All Participants

Golf events involve numerous participants beyond competing athletes. Each group has specific medical needs and potential vulnerabilities.

Stakeholder Groups

Athletes, Caddies, Officials, Course Maintenance Teams

Each group requires specific consideration and protections. Event organizers should develop tailored medical and safety protocols for each stakeholder group.

Caddies - Specific Considerations

- Separate medical briefing for caddies on available services
- Access to same medical facilities as athletes
- Monitoring for overexertion and dehydration
- Foot care and blister prevention programs

Course Maintenance and Agronomy Team

- Pre-event safety training on chemical hazards and proper handling
- Personal protective equipment requirements
- Reptile bites and poison control and contact information readily available
- Medical monitoring for chemical exposure
- Fatigue management protocols for extended work hours

Communication Planning

Effective communication is essential for safe event operations. A comprehensive communication plan should be developed and implemented before the event begins.

Internal Communications (Medical Team)

Radio Network (Recommended for events > 5,000 attendees)

- Dedicated radio channel for medical services
- Accessible to Event Medical Manager, all first aid posts, ambulances, and mobile responders
- Pre-event testing and calibration
- Daily testing prior to the commencement of practice/play
- Backup system in case of primary system failure

Coordination with Emergency Services

- Direct communication line to emergency dispatch centre
- Pre-established protocols for ambulance request and response
- Regular communication with local hospitals regarding event operations
- IGF Crisis management and spoke person procedures



Agreements with Local Authorities

Early and comprehensive engagement with local public health authorities, emergency services, and government agencies is essential for successful event planning and operations.

Key Local Authorities to Engage

- Local public health department or ministry of health
- Emergency medical services/ambulance services
- Hospital(s) designated for emergency patient transport
- Police and security forces
- Fire department

Information to Provide to Authorities

- Event schedule and competition dates
- Expected number and profile of participants
- Expected spectator attendance
- Venue map and site plan
- Medical facilities plan and equipment inventory
- Emergency response plan and evacuation procedures

Host Hospitals and Emergency Medical Facilities

Identification of appropriate hospital(s) and emergency medical facilities is a critical component of event planning.

Hospital Identification and Assessment

- Geographic proximity to event venue (ideally < 15 minutes transport time)
- Emergency department capability and volume capacity
- Specialist services available (cardiology, neurosurgery, trauma, orthopaedics)
- Capacity to handle mass casualty situations
- Experience with sports-related injuries

International Medical Insurance and Billing

International golf events involve participants from many countries who may have varying insurance coverage. Clear communication regarding medical costs and insurance is essential.

Pre-Event Communication to Participants

- That medical services are available on-site at no cost
- Hospital billing procedures and potential costs
- Insurance requirements (personal travel medical insurance strongly recommended)
- Hospital contact information and location
- Procedures for international medical insurance claims

Anti-doping Considerations in Medical Care

The provision of medical care to athletes and support personnel at golf events must always take into consideration anti-doping regulations and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Prohibited List. The medical team has a responsibility to provide appropriate treatment while ensuring compliance with anti-doping standards that protect the integrity of golf as a sport. However, in life-threatening medical emergencies, the preservation of life and health takes absolute priority, and necessary life-saving treatment should never be withheld due to anti-doping considerations.

WADA Prohibited List Compliance

- All medications and treatments provided to athletes should be reviewed against the current WADA Prohibited List before administration.
- Some medications on the WADA Prohibited List may be used under a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) when a documented medical need exists. Event organizers and medical personnel should be familiar with TUE procedures for their jurisdiction.
- The decision to prescribe or administer a prohibited substance should be made only after careful consideration of alternative treatments that comply with anti-doping regulations.
- Athletes should be informed when a medication or treatment is on the WADA Prohibited List, and the rationale for its administration should be documented.

Life-Threatening Medical Emergencies

In situations where an athlete's life or long-term health is in immediate danger, the medical team must prioritize life-saving treatment regardless of anti-doping status. Examples of life-threatening conditions include cardiac arrest, severe anaphylaxis, acute respiratory failure, massive haemorrhage, severe head injury, and acute stroke. In these situations, the administration of necessary medications (such as epinephrine, antihistamines, corticosteroids, or other emergency drugs) is medically and ethically appropriate and necessary, even if they appear on the WADA Prohibited List. Such emergency treatment should be thoroughly documented with clear notation that it was provided for a genuine life-threatening medical emergency. A retroactive TUE be applied for in the case of necessary emergency treatment.

WADA and ITA Resources

For comprehensive information on anti-doping regulations, the current WADA Prohibited List, and procedures for Therapeutic Use Exemptions, event organizers and medical personnel should consult:

- World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA): <https://www.wada-ama.org/> - Current Prohibited List, TUE procedures, and anti-doping guidance
- International Testing Agency (ITA): <https://www.itahq.org/> - Testing procedures, results management, and athlete information

Critical Disclaimer: Variation by Jurisdiction and Event

Anti-doping regulations, policies, and prohibited substances can vary significantly depending on jurisdiction, event type, and organizing body. Anti-doping rules that apply to IGF-sanctioned events may differ substantially from those that apply to other golf competitions, national events, or non-sanctioned tournaments. Event organizers and medical personnel cannot assume that regulations are uniform across all golf competitions.

National Anti-Doping Agency (NADO) Consultation

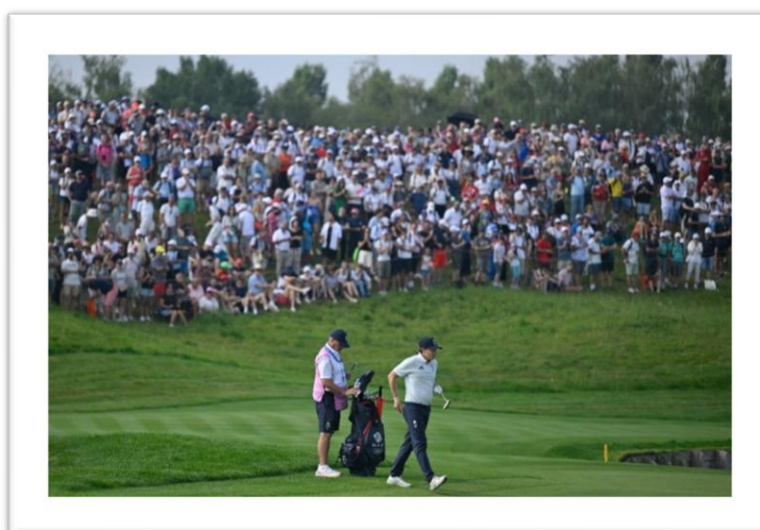
The medical team **MUST** consult with the relevant National Anti-Doping Agency (NADO) for the host country to understand the specific anti-doping regulations and prohibited substances that apply to the event. Each country may have its own national anti-doping rules that differ from WADA regulations or may have stricter prohibitions than the international standards. The NADO can provide current information about national anti-doping regulations and policies; national prohibited substance lists (if different from WADA); national TUE procedures and requirements; and testing and results management procedures that apply in that jurisdiction. However, for IGF events, the IGF anti-doping rules apply, which follow the WADA International Standards for Prohibited Substances & Methods, and Therapeutic Use Exemptions.

Golf Event Organizer Consultation

In addition to national NADO regulations, the medical team must consult with the specific golf event organizers to understand and confirm the exact anti-doping regulations that will be enforced for their event. Different golf events may have different anti-doping policies, sanctions, and procedures. Before administering any medication or treatment that could be subject to anti-doping scrutiny, the medical team should: clarify which anti-doping code or regulations apply to the event; confirm which organization is responsible for testing and results management; understand the procedures for reporting therapeutic use exemptions; determine whether athlete therapeutic use exemptions from other jurisdictions are recognized; identify consequences of anti-doping violations under that event's regulations; and have clear communication with event medical leadership about anti-doping policies.

Further Guidance: ASOIF Healthcare Guidelines

For comprehensive guidance on medical care, anti-doping considerations, and healthcare management at international sports events, the medical team should consult the ASOIF Healthcare Guidelines 2020 for International Federation Events. This comprehensive resource addresses the integration of medical care with anti-doping compliance and provides detailed recommendations for managing healthcare at major sporting events. The ASOIF Healthcare Guidelines are available through the Association of Summer Olympic International Sports Federations ([ASOIF](#)).



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS” For Event Organisers

Implementation of these recommendations will create a foundation for safe and successful golf events:

- Designate an Event Medical Manager with appropriate medical credentials
- Establish an Event Medical Committee to coordinate planning
- Conduct comprehensive medical and safeguarding risk assessments
- Develop a detailed event medical plan addressing all aspects of care
- Develop comprehensive mental health support plan
- Establish Serenity Space or equivalent safe space for athlete mental health
- Implement mental health education programs for all stakeholders
- Provide media training to athletes on managing public attention
- Develop Mental Health Emergency Action Plan with trained staff
- Designate Event Safeguarding Officer with adequate resources and training
- Implement trauma- and violence-informed skills training for safeguarding and mental health staff
- Require all visiting NF coaches, officials, and medical personnel to complete IGF Safeguarding in Sports E-Learning Foundation Course
- Establish anonymous whistleblower reporting mechanisms for safeguarding concerns
- Conduct safeguarding risk assessment identifying specific vulnerabilities
- Develop event-specific safeguarding policy aligned with IGF standards
- Identify and establish relationships with host hospital(s)
- Coordinate with all relevant local authorities and emergency services
- Develop and test emergency action and evacuation plans
- Ensure all necessary medical equipment and supplies are available
- Conduct comprehensive training for all event personnel
- Perform emergency response drills and simulations
- Establish and test all communication systems
- Schedule pre-event coordination meetings with all stakeholders
- Communicate with participants about medical services and safeguarding resources
- Keep detailed records of all medical and safeguarding incidents
- Conduct post-event review and debriefing to identify improvements

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APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A: ATHLETE MEDICAL ASSESSMENT FORM

(To be completed at registration or first medical encounter)

• Athlete Name & ID:	
• Date of Birth:	
• Country:	
• Sport/Event:	
• Pre-existing medical conditions:	
• Current medications:	
• Allergies:	
• Emergency contact:	

APPENDIX B: EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION TEMPLATE

• Chief Medical Officer (CMO):	
• Deputy Medical Officer:	
• Primary Hospital:	
• Emergency Services (911 equivalent):	
• Ambulance Service:	
• Mental Health Crisis Line:	
• Event Medical Coordinator:	
• Safeguarding Officer:	

APPENDIX C: MEDICAL EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

- Emergency Equipment:
 - AED with pads
 - Oxygen delivery system
 - Bag-valve-mask
 - Suction equipment
 - Cervical collar and spine board
- Diagnostic Equipment:
 - Blood pressure cuff
 - Stethoscope
 - Thermometer (rectal)
 - Pulse oximeter
 - Blood glucose meter
- Wound Care:
 - Sterile gauze
 - Antiseptic solutions
 - Bandages and tape
 - Sterile gloves
 - Irrigation equipment
- Environmental Illness:
 - Cold packs and blankets
 - Ice bath or cooling equipment
 - Rectal thermometer
 - Oral rehydration solutions

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: SAMPLE MEDICAL INCIDENT REPORT FORM

This template can be used to document all medical incidents at the event. Medical records should be kept confidential and secure in accordance with applicable privacy regulations.

Date of Incident	___ / ___ / ___
Time of Incident	___ : ___ (24-hour format)
Location	(Hole number, medical post, or venue location)
Individual Involved	Name: _____ Role: _____ (athlete/caddie/official/staff/spectator)
Medical Condition	Description of injury or illness:
Mechanism of Injury	(Ball strike, fall, collapse, etc.)
Initial Assessment	Vital signs: BP ___ HR ___ RR ___ Temperature ___
Treatment Provided	(First aid, medications, procedures performed)
Disposition	☐ Returned to activity ☐ Transported to medical post ☐ Transported to hospital
Hospital Transferred To	Hospital name: _____ Time: ___:___
Medical Provider	Name: _____ Credentials: _____
Follow-Up Required	☐ Yes ☐ No Details: _____
Provider Signature	_____ Date: _____

ANNEX 2: SAMPLE SAFEGUARDING INCIDENT REPORT FORM

Use this form to document all safeguarding concerns. Keep records confidential and secure.

Date of Report	___ / ___ / ___
Reported By	Name: _____ (Optional for anonymous reports)
Nature of Concern	Specific incident(s): _____
Individual(s) Involved	Subject of concern: _____ Other parties: _____
Dates and Locations	When and where did incident(s) occur: _____
Witnesses	Anyone who witnessed incident(s): _____
Actions Already Taken	What response, if any, has occurred: _____
Evidence or Documents	Any documentation of concern: _____
Desired Outcome	What resolution does reporter seek: _____
Safeguarding Officer Signature	Date: _____

ANNEX 3: MENTAL HEALTH INCIDENT REPORT FORM

This template should be used to document mental health concerns and responses. All mental health records must be kept in secure, confidential files separate from general medical records when possible to enhance privacy protection.

Date	___ / ___ / ___
Time	___ : ___ (24-hour format)
Individual	Name: _____ (Confidential)
Concern Identified	Description: _____
Source of Concern	☐ Self-report ☐ Staff observation ☐ Other: _____
Severity Level	☐ Mild ☐ Moderate ☐ Severe/Crisis
Intervention Provided	Details: _____
Referral Made	☐ Yes ☐ No To: _____
Mental Health Professional	Name: _____
Follow-Up Plan	Details and timeline: _____

ANNEX 4: MENTAL HEALTH INCIDENT REPORT FORM

This template should be used to document mental health concerns and responses. All mental health records must be kept in secure, confidential files separate from general medical records when possible to enhance privacy protection.

Date	___ / ___ / ___
Time	___ : ___ (24-hour format)
Individual	Name: _____ (Confidential)
Concern Identified	Description: _____
Source of Concern	☐ Self-report ☐ Staff observation ☐ Other: _____
Severity Level	☐ Mild ☐ Moderate ☐ Severe/Crisis
Intervention Provided	Details: _____
Referral Made	☐ Yes ☐ No To: _____
Mental Health Professional	Name: _____
Follow-Up Plan	Details and timeline: _____

ANNEX 5: DAILY MEDICAL BRIEFING CHECKLIST

This checklist ensures that all critical preparations are completed before each competition day:

• All medical staff present and accounted for	☐
• Weather briefing completed	☐
• AEDs checked and functional	☐
• Emergency medications verified and accessible	☐
• Mental health services status reviewed	☐
• Radio systems tested	☐
• Ambulance(s) available and staffed	☐
• Hospital contacted and notified	☐
• Special medical conditions reviewed	☐
• Mental health crisis protocols reviewed	☐
• Evacuation routes reviewed	☐
• All staff questions answered	☐

ANNEX 6: SUGGESTED MEDICATIONS FOR GOLF EVENTS

The following is a suggested list of medications for golf events. Local regulations may require modification. All medications should be stored securely and managed according to applicable laws.

Emergency Medications

- Adrenaline (epinephrine) 1:1000 injection
- Adrenaline auto-injectors (e.g., EpiPen) 0.3-0.5 mg
- Aspirin 75-300 mg
- Nitroglycerin (GTN) spray or tablets
- Glucose gel or tablets (for hypoglycemia)
- Oxygen supply

Pain Management

- Paracetamol (acetaminophen) 500 mg
- Ibuprofen 200-400 mg
- Naproxen 250-500 mg

Gastrointestinal

- Antacid tablets
- Loperamide (anti-diarrheal)
- Metoclopramide (anti-nausea)

Respiratory

- Salbutamol inhaler (WADA Therapeutic Use Exemption may be required)
- Beclomethasone inhaler
- Montelukast tablets

Topical

- Hydrocortisone cream
- Antibiotic ointment
- Sunscreen SPF 30-50
- Insect repellent

Legal Disclaimer

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1. For Reference Purposes Only

This Guide is provided solely for informational, educational and reference purposes only, and shall serve as a recommended framework. It does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal, medical, regulatory, or professional advice of any kind. It should not be treated as a substitute for qualified professional guidance in any of the foregoing fields or serve as a replacement of qualified healthcare professionals. Event organizers, safety personnel, and affiliated bodies should exercise their own professional judgment in evaluation of specific needs. Any reliance on the terms contained in this document shall be at such party's own risk.

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3. Local Laws and Regulations Prevail

In all circumstances, applicable national laws, regulations, and local authority requirements take precedence over the recommendations set out in this Guide. Where any provision of this Guide conflicts with, or falls short of, mandatory legal or regulatory requirements in the host jurisdiction, those legal or regulatory requirements shall prevail without exception. Event organizers are solely responsible for identifying and complying with all such obligations and are strongly advised to seek independent legal and regulatory counsel specific to their jurisdiction and event.

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