



Policy Name: Sport Science Credentialing Policy

Date of Issuance: 5/1/2022

Policy Owner: Chief of Sport & Athlete Services

Applies to: Sport Science Providers at USOPC Delegation Events

I. Purpose

This Policy defines the minimum criteria sport scientists must meet before the USOPC will permit the sport scientists to provide services and participate at USOPC Delegation Events.

II. Definitions

“Sport Scientist” means a professional who provides services, including but not limited to, sport physiologists, sport dietitians, and strength & conditioning coaches.

“International Sport Scientist” means a Sport Scientist who is internationally licensed and would like to provide services at a USOPC Delegation Event.

“NGB” means a national governing body of sport in the United States.

“USOPC Delegation Events” means events to which the USOPC officially sends an individual or group of individuals on behalf of the USOPC and/or the United States as well as events for which the USOPC oversees the provision of medical services. USOPC Delegation Events include but are not limited to the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Pan American Games, Parapan American Games, and the Youth Olympic Games.

III. Credentialing Requirements

Sport Scientist, including International Sport Scientist, **may not** provide any services at a USOPC Delegation Event unless they satisfy **ALL** the following requirements. Sport Scientist must submit proof of each of the following and obtain approval from USOPC Sport Performance **before providing any services at a USOPC Delegation Event.**

1. Meet the requirements and submit the appropriate documentation required for the Sport Scientist field of practice indicated in [Appendix A](#).
2. Where licensure is required, demonstrate to the satisfaction of the USOPC that (a) the State in which the USOPC Delegation Event will occur recognizes the Scientist's license and authorizes the Sport Scientist to provide the services or (b) a specific exemption permits the Sport Science Provider to provide the services without a license in the state or other jurisdiction in which the USOPC Delegation Event will occur, such as the Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act. The Sport Science Provider may demonstrate the authorization or permission described in this item by providing an affirming communication from the appropriate professional licensing board in the jurisdiction where the facility or event will occur or by providing an analysis by a legal professional citing to appropriate jurisdiction-specific authorities.
3. May never have been convicted of a felony or any conviction for healthcare fraud.

4. May not have any actions, sanctions, suspensions or discipline on clinical privileges, licensing, professional standing, or employment arising from misconduct involving sexual abuse, harassment, or substance abuse.
5. Complete and pass a background check (including professional medical credential review, where applicable) through the USOPC as described in the USOPC Background Check Policy & Procedures (available upon request).
6. Complete and remain current with the athlete safety training requirements set forth in the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy.
7. Must have completed the applicable antidoping online education program specifically designed for science personnel within two years. The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) conducts the required training for all other Sport Science Providers called the USADA HealthPro Advantage.
8. Sign and comply with the USOPC Code of Conduct for Sports Medicine and Sport Science Providers and Confidentiality Agreement.
9. Must sign and comply with all USOPC Delegation Event forms.

IV. Credentialing Process

In all cases, the USOPC will conduct a review of the Sport Science Provider's credentials. The USOPC will not authorize (or credential) a Sport Science Provider to provide services at a USOPC Delegation Event if any of the criteria listed in the section above are not satisfied.

Further, the USOPC may reject a request for credentials or access for any other irregularity or reason for concern at the sole discretion of the USOPC. The below outlines additional credential process requirements for NGBs.

1. NGBs must nominate and allocate USOPC Delegation Event credentials to NGB-identified Sport Science Providers supporting their sport science needs during the USOPC Delegation Event. All nominated NGB Sport Science Providers must be registered and identified as Stage 1 in the USOPC Game's Portal no later than the long list deadline. Additionally, NGB Sport Science providers must successfully meet the staff selection criteria.
2. The NGB sport science staffing list includes anyone who will potentially receive a local organizing committee ("LOC") or USOPC credential and/or use a day pass to provide services at an Olympic/Paralympic Village or High-Performance Training Center. NGBs must ensure their identified sport science staff meet the standards outlined in Appendix A prior to advancing their nomination for a USOPC Delegation Event credential or day access pass.

Upon meeting all the credential requirements and processes listed above, the USOPC will notify the NGB, as applicable, as to whether the sport science provider is authorized to provide sport science services at the USOPC Delegation Event. Further information and timelines will be provided, as appropriate.

V. Provision of Sport Science Services & Failure to Receive Credentials

The USOPC will only authorize (or credential) Sport Science Providers to provide services at a USOPC Delegation Event if the Sport Science Provider meets the requirements and processes outlined in this Policy. Sport Science Providers granted credentials will be permitted to provide services only to the athletic team or sport governing body (including the USOPC, where applicable) that has engaged them and only within any

restrictions imposed by the USOPC. At no time may any Sport Science Provider provide any services to any athletes that are not part of the Sport Science Provider's team. Sport Science Providers may not hold themselves out to the public as sport science professionals while outside the jurisdiction in which the Sport Science Provider is authorized to provide services nor may any Sport Science Provider provide services outside the scope of their practice area.

Sport Science Providers who **do not** meet the requirements listed above or do not otherwise receive USOPC credentials are prohibited from providing services to any athletes at a USOPC Delegation Event, regardless of whether those athletes are part of the Sport Science Provider's team.

For clarification purposes, International Sport Science Providers who do not meet the requirements set forth in Section III of this Policy will **NOT** receive authorization from the USOPC to provide services at a USOPC Delegation Event.

Any Sport Science Provider who violates this Policy or fails to act in accordance with its requirements in any way may be subject to disciplinary action by the USOPC, in the USOPC's sole discretion, up to and including removal of the Sport Science Provider¹.

VI. Ongoing Obligation to Inform

When Sport Science Providers intend to provide services at a USOPC Delegation Event, they have an ongoing obligation to notify the USOPC, as soon as practicable, of any pending criminal charges or disciplinary actions against the Sport Science Provider or the Sport Science Provider's license, by any organization, board, or licensing agency. Any such notification would be subject to and undergo the review process outlined in the USOPC Background Check Policies & Procedures document.

VII. Participant Status

Sport Science Providers authorized to provide services at a USOPC Delegation Event agree that they are a "Participant" of the USOPC as that term is defined in the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy (available at <http://teamusa.org/USOPCAthleteSafetyPolicy>). As a Participant, Sport Science Provider must be familiar with, and abide by the U.S. Center for SafeSport's SafeSport Code for the Olympic & Paralympic Movements (available at www.uscenterforsafesport.org), the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy (available at <http://teamusa.org/USOPCAthleteSafetyPolicy>), and the USOPC Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies ("MAAPP") (available at <http://Teamusa.org/maapp>).

¹ In situations where an NGB Sport Science Provider's conduct is at issue, the NGB's selection procedures may apply, in which case those selection procedures will govern the review and possible disciplinary action against the NGB Sport Science Provider.

Appendix A

<i>SPORT SCIENCE PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS</i>		
<i>SPORT DIETITIAN</i>	<i>REQUIREMENTS</i>	<i>DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR SPORT SCIENCE CREDENTIAL REVIEW</i>
<i>SPORT DIETITIAN</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Dietitian (RD) or equivalent required. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If provider is from a country with no reciprocity with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, (e.g., Dietitian/Nutritionist from foreign countries), must be a formally recognized nutrition/dietetic professional in country of origin. • Current active state license/certification per state requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of current RD certification or international equivalent. • Copy of current state license. • Copy of current malpractice insurance. (Malpractice declaration page - preferred) • Current SafeSport certification (yearly). • Current USADA antidoping training certification (biennial).
<i>SPORT PHYSIOLOGIST</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelors, Masters and/or PhD in Exercise Physiology, Exercise Sciences, Sport Science or related field. • One or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ American College of Sports Medicine Certifications. ○ American Society of Exercise Physiologists Certifications. ○ Clinical Exercise Physiology Association Certified. ○ National Governing Body Coach Certified. ○ Certified Strength & Conditioning Specialist (CSCS). • CPR/AED Certified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ American College of Sports Medicine certificate. ○ American Society of Exercise Physiologists certificate. ○ Clinical Exercise Physiology Association certificate. ○ National Governing Body Coach Certificate. ○ Strength & Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) certificate. • Copy of current CPR/AED certificate. • Current SafeSport certification (yearly). • Current USADA antidoping training certification (biennial).
<i>STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACH</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelors, Masters and/or PhD in Exercise Physiology, Exercise Sciences, Sport Science, or related field. • One or more of the following or international equivalent required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Strength & Conditioning Association: Certified Strength & Conditioning Specialist. ○ Collegiate Strength & Conditioning Coaches Association: Strength and Conditioning Coach Certified. ○ USA Weightlifting: Level 1. • CPR/AED Certified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One or more of the following or international equivalent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) certificate. ○ Strength and Conditioning Coach Certificate. ○ USA Weightlifting Level 1 Certificate. • Copy of current CPR/AED certificate. • Current SafeSport certification (yearly). • Current USADA antidoping training certification (biennial).