

**USA WEIGHTLIFTING**  
**SPORTS MEDICINE SOCIETY**

**October 4th, 2018**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** to serve and protect the athletes, staff, and officials associated with USA Weightlifting in the manner helping:

- 1) TREAT injuries occurring on and off field of play.
- 2) ACT as resource to USAW Leadership when issues regarding health/wellness of athletes present themselves.
- 3) INSTRUCT on rehabilitation of acute and chronic injuries
- 4) PROVIDE a multi-specialty approach to evaluation and care of the athlete
- 5) MAINTAIN an educational interest associated with the sport of weightlifting, in the realm of research, athlete, coach, parent, and community education.
- 6) PREVENT injury
- 7) MAXIMIZE sports performance.
- 8) PROTECT the athlete from all forms of abuse, and be vigilant for abuse from other potential sources within the athlete's athletic life.

**ROLE:** The role of the Sports Medicine Society (SMS) is to serve the membership of USAW (i.e. athletes, staff, coaches) at the discretion of the USAW leadership, especially the USAW Board. The expected/requested role and scope of practice of the medical providers at USAW events shall follow the rules set forth by USA Weightlifting leaders and its board and the International Weightlifting Federation, if no such direction is delineated by USA Weightlifting. SMS prefers to take an advisory role in the care of the athletes but recognizes in certain extreme situation advocacy for patient health may supersede advisory capacity. This is when an athlete's medical eligibility to continue or proceed with competition regarding concerns for long term health or short term safety of life, limb or eye sight.

**PROTOCOL FOR DISQUALIFICATION:** As put forth by the IWF, the Doctor on Duty (DoD) or in the USA, the Event Medical Director (EMD) have the ability to medically disqualify any athlete where there is risk to life, limb, or eyesight. The proper procedure is for the DoD/EMD to confer with athlete, athlete's parent/guardian (*if under 18 years old and immediately available*) and their coach. If there is not consensus with the DoD/EMD's decision, the DoD/EMD should approach the Head of the Jury to explain the situation to disqualify.

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***Amendments to 2007 Bylaws***  
**10/03/2018**

**INTRODUCTION:** The role as defined by USA Weightlifting is that USAW sports medicine society (a.k.a. SMS) is an adjunctive organization to USAW to serve USAW Board and leadership in the best of its capacity. The primary objective of the USAW sports medicine society is the diagnosis, treatment, education and prevention of acute and chronic injuries sustained by athletes, coaches, staff and spectators before, during or after a competition. Our secondary objective is to provide a supportive, educational environment in which young volunteers (physicians, chiropractors, physical therapist, massage therapists, athletic trainers, etc.) may collaborate and learn. The sense of team approach is much the culture of USAW SMS.

**ATHLETES SAFETY:** This is a role all of those involved in care of the athlete should be involved in, inclusive to staff, coaches, technical officials, parents and medical society members. There should be safeguards in place to help prevent injury, assess and treat those who are acutely or chronically injured, and psychological support to deal with these issues.

**MEDICAL INFORMATION PRIVACY:** All members of SMS will abide by local, state and federal laws (a.k.a. HIPAA) as it pertains to accessing, transmitting, and communication anyone who is treated professionally.

**SMS MEMBERSHIP:** all members must submit the following documents to be reviewed by the chairman or his designee to assure licensure.

Physician (M.D. or D.O.)

Chiropractors (D.C)

Physical Therapist (P.T. or D.P.T.)

Athletic Trainer (A.T.C.)

Massage Therapist (L.M.T.)

Other Health Professionals (nurse, nurse practitioner, physician's assistant,  
acupuncturist, naturopath)

**DOCUMENTATION:** It is recommended and encouraged that each provider document their encounter if a significant medical illness/injury occurs using the standard USA Weightlifting Injury report form. At the end of the competition, these forms will be sent (via mail or digital) to the Chair of the USAW SMS for review and safe keeping. The medical director of the event

must submit their overview of the competition from the realm of the medical perspective to the Chair of the USAW SMS within one week of the competition's completion. This document will be reviewed by the chair and forwarded onto the Executive Director of USAW or his/her designee in a HIPPA compliant fashion.

**FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING:** It is the desire that all members of the SMS have completed and keep current on at least one of the following:

- 1) First Responder training (inclusive of CPR)
- 2) Basic Life Support

**YOUTH PROTECTION:** It is the belief of the USAW SMS leadership that there are certain simple rules that will help us protect youth and avoid certain situations

- 1) Never be alone with an athlete, if at all possible. Try to make sure if there is another adult, parent, staff member, or athlete present if examining or treating a patient, unless if a serious of life-threatening injury/illness occurs.
- 2) If due to unforeseeable circumstances, an exam of a patient must occur without a chaperone, conducting exam not behind "closed doors," may be an option.
- 3) Completing the USOC's SAFESPORT program as mandated every two years and pass the module by earning a certificate of completion.
- 4) **Duty to Report:** All members of the SMS have the duty to report all suspected or witnessed abuse (i.e. physical, emotional, or sexual) to the proper authorities. The proper authorities are defined as the Event Medical Director, USAW Chief Executive Officer, the USAW Board, or local, state, or federal law enforcement.
- 5) All medical staff who connected physically with our USAW athletes, must submit copies:
  - a. Their diploma(s)
  - b. in force malpractice rider
  - c. digital headshot
  - d. current copy of the CV
  - e. Current copy of their individual states' license

**PRELIMINARY MEMBERSHIP:** Each provider / physician must cover at least one national meet AND be vetted by one of our USAW SMS leadership team, in order to better address their skill level. Once an applicant has been evaluated and precepted. They are then able to be medically competent and "plays well" with our SMS, they will be invited to become a full-fledged member of our Society.

**FULL MEMBERSHIP:** once a preliminary member has been invited to join the USAW SMS as a full member, they must maintain the appropriate licensure and attend at least one national/regional USAW event to remain active every two years. At any point, a member may be asked to be placed into “inactive” status and may become “active” after covering a USAW national/regional event. For physicians or chiropractors to be considered for international team physician spots they should be in good standing with USAW SMS as an active member. The chair of the SMS reserves the right to remove any member from the society. The member has a right to inquire about the reason for the termination from the society.

**INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL COVERAGE:** Since international medical coverage is mostly supported through USAW, it is the expectation that the highest, appropriate medical personnel with the best qualifications be utilized for this role. Primarily, only medical doctors, osteopathic doctors or chiropractors can be utilized for the role of team doctor. The Physicians must be enrolled in or completed an accredited Sports Medicine Fellowship and the Chiropractors must have completed their CCSP or DABCSP. Those not completing the above criteria may appeal to the chair of USAW SMS, who will review on a case-to-case basis based on education, service to organization, knowledge/skill base, etc. Other medical personnel, such as chiropractors without advanced training, physical therapist, athletic trainers, massage therapists, nurse practitioners may accompany the team as a secondary role, at the discretion of the chair of USAW SMS and the financial support of USAW.