



Athletics Canada (AC) Standard Sport Science (SS) & Sports Medicine (SM) Minimum Practitioner Guidelines

Athletics Canada requires the following minimum sport science and/or sports medicine practitioner standards/guidelines (outlined below) to deliver any services to an athlete. Furthermore, they are required for a Service Provider partnership both at HUBs, on National teams and when individual athletes seek out Integrated Support Team Services.

Anyone who does not satisfy the minimal criteria / degrees outlined per practitioner below is, thus, not permitted to treat an athlete in any manner or regard.

Biomechanist /Technologist / Analytics

- Must have a post-secondary degree in a health science related field (ideally MSc or PhD in biomechanics)
- It is strongly preferred that the practitioner have experience working with high performance athletes, and ideally in Athletics.
- It is preferred the practitioner is active in sport related research and scholarly writing.
- Must have valid liability insurance personally or through their institute. (Or the equivalent from the representative Country/Province/State)

Chiropractor

- Must be a registered and a member in good standing of the College of the representative Country/Province/State and be actively practicing.
- Must be a member in good standing of a representative Country/Province/State College or Association (e.g.Ontario or British Columbia Chiropractic Association)
- If Canadian, it is strongly preferred that the practitioner must have obtained a Fellowship with the College of Chiropractic in Sport Sciences Canada (FCCSS)
- It is strongly preferred that the practitioner should have experience working with high performance athletes.
- Should have Sports First Responder First Aid (or equivalent from local province/country)
- Must have valid liability coverage by Canadian Chiropractor Protective Association (CCPA) or equivalency personally or through their institute to cover work with Canadian athletes(or the equivalent from the representative Country/Province/State)

Massage Therapist

- Must be a registered massage therapist (RMT) (or the equivalent from the representative Country/Province/State)
- If Canadian, it is strongly preferred that the practitioner be certified by the Canadian Sport Massage Therapists Association (CSMTA) (or the equivalent from the representative Country/Province/State)
- Must be registered to practice in the representative Country/Province/State; registration must be active
- It is strongly preferred that the practitioner should have experience working with high performance athletes
- Must have Sports First Responder First Aid (or equivalent from local province/country)
- Must have valid liability coverage personally or through their institute. (or the equivalent from the representative Country/Province/State)



Nutrition

- Must have a post-secondary degree in a health science related field and/or nutrition / exercise physiology field (and/or PhD in Nutrition and/or Sports Nutrition Exercise Physiology field).
- If Canadian, it is strongly preferred that the practitioner must be a registered dietician (RD) and actively practicing and in good standing with their college (eg. Dietitians of Canada and/or the equivalent from the representative Country/Province/State)
- If Canadian, it is strongly preferred that the practitioner be a member of the Sport Nutrition Registry with the Coaching Association of Canada
- It is strongly preferred that the practitioner have experience working with high performance athletes.
- Must have valid liability insurance personally or through their institute. (or the equivalent from the representative Country/Province/State)

Physician

- Must have an unrestricted license in the representative Country/Province/State and be actively practicing.
- If Canadian, the primary care physician must be a member in good standing with the Canadian Academy of Sport Exercise Medicine (CASEM), and it is strongly preferred that the physician have a CASEM diploma in Sports Medicine and the Advanced Team Physicians course (or equivalent in the representative Country)
- It is strongly preferred that practitioner should have national/international team experience.
- Must have Canadian Medical Protective Association (CMPA) or valid liability insurance personally or through their institute (or the equivalent from the representative Country/Province/State)

Physiologist

- Must have a post-secondary degree in a health science related field (ideally MSc or PhD in exercise physiology)
- Must have active CPR certification.
- It is strongly preferred that the practitioner must be a registered Certified Exercise Physiologist (CEP) with the Canadian Society of Exercise Physiology (CSEP)
- It is strongly preferred that the practitioner have experience working with high performance athletes.
- It is strongly preferred that practitioner should have Sports First Responder First Aid (or equivalent from local province/country)
- It is strongly preferred that the practitioner should have completed NCCP Theory courses Level 1-3
- Must have valid liability insurance personally or through their institute. (or the equivalent from the representative Country/Province/State)



Physiotherapist/Athletic Therapist

- If Canadian, must be a certified member in good standing of the Canadian Athletic Therapists Association (CATA) (or the equivalent from the representative Country/Province/State)
- If Canadian, must be a member in good standing of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA) (or the equivalent from the representative Country/Province/State)
- If Canadian it is strongly preferred to have obtained a minimum Certificate in Sport Physiotherapy from the Sport Physiotherapy Council (SPC) (or the equivalent from the representative Country/Province/State)
- It is strongly preferred that the practitioner has completed a continuing education course in orthopedics manual therapy.
- Must have Sports First Responder First Aid (or equivalent from local province/country)
- It is strongly preferred that the practitioner has national/international team experience.
- Must have valid liability insurance personally or through their institute to treat Canadian athletes (or the equivalent from the representative Country/Province/State)
- Must have a master's or Doctorate in Sport Psychology, Psychology, or Physical Education
- If Psychology, must be registered with the College of Psychologists of Ontario or British Columbia (or whatever region one is from) and have sport related coursework and experience.
- Must have Canadian Sport Psychology Association (CSPA) Professional membership (or the equivalent from the representative Country/Province/State)
- Must be a certified Mental Performance Consultant
- Must have valid liability insurance personally or through their institute or CSPA (or the equivalent from the representative Country/Province/State)

Strength and Conditioning

- Must have a post-secondary degree in a health science related field.
- Must have CSCS (Certified Strength & Conditioning Specialists)
- It is strongly preferred that the practitioner have experience working with high performance athletes.
- It is strongly preferred that practitioner should have Sports First Responder First Aid (or equivalent from local province/country)
- It is strongly preferred that the practitioner should have completed NCCP Theory courses Level 3
- Must have valid liability insurance personally or through their institute. (or the equivalent from the representative Country/Province/State)

OTE: Exception to Minimum Standards: In very rare circumstances a service provider practitioner will be considered for involvement even if they have not met all the qualifications outlined. A practitioner who has vast experience working with high performance athletes, major Games experience and has played a significant leadership role within their field will have.

the opportunity to contribute, upon review by the Athletics Canada SSSMI Leadership Team. The practitioner must be in the process of achieving the required qualifications or will be granted equivalency by virtue of their standing and experience. In any case, the exception must be seen to be in the best interests of the athlete(s).